Tiger Coffier

22.11.1940 thru 31.10.1940

Continued from

Reel K-4A

MOST SECRET.

4.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked.

SIMLA — See America and West Indies.

Submarines Reported.

1037. — D.F., unreliable fix, probable U/B, 53°N. 22°W. (D.D.I.C. 1147/4).

1100. — By aircraft 49.04 N., 12.31 W. (C.in C. W.A. 1141/4). U-Boat probably bound for Lorient position 49.04 N., 12.31 W. at 1100/4. (V.A.S. 1156/4) Course 360°. (C.in C. W.A. 1317/4).

1240. — SSSS. Periscope sighted Tees Bay. (THALA, 1240/4).

1130. — Suspected U-boat reported by merchant ship in Tees Bay. (C.in C. Rosyth 1552/4.

1607. — By D/F 55° N. 17° to 19°W. (C.in C. W.A. 1653/4).

MALOSA — U-boat proceeding easterly may cross your track between 2000 and midnight today. (C.in C. W.A. 1730/4 to MALOSA).

1209. — 52° N. 22° W. Approx. (D.S. 396).

North Atlantic.

Consul, Las Palmas, reports unconfirmed rumours of 2 unknown submarines sighted by schooner 20 miles south of Grand Canary 2/10. (F.O.C.N.A. 0325/4).

Submarines Reported.

Estimated dispositions. — 1 in 49° 04' N. 12° 32' W. at 1100/4 will probably arrive Lorient p.m./5.
1 about 550 miles west of Fastnet.
Another in about 53° N. 22° W. at 1037/4.
1 about 250 miles further north.
1 was in 56° N. 9° W. at 0200/3.
1 about 100 miles Westward of Rockall.

By TRIBUNE 26/9. — 5 torpedoes fired at range 2700 yds. On looking 6 minutes later U-boat was not in sight and TRIBUNE had to avoid A/S hunt (V.A.S. 1453/4).

1104. — By aircraft with bomb and d.c. 49° 4'N. 12°32'W. No hits. (D.S. 396).

(12)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Anti-Invasion Patrol

In view of the weather and the 4 available destroyers having been on patrol two nights running, anti-invasion patrol by Portsmouth destroyers was not carried out last night. C. in C., Portsmouth proposes that this patrol should no longer be carried out, observing that we are in a position to detect in sufficient time, even in poor visibility, large movements of vessels at Antwerp and Dunkirk in connection with any invasion attempt.

Italian Submarine Sunk

At 0700 today TIGRIS attacked 3 Italian submarines of SANTORRE SANTAROSA class and two French patrol vessels entering the Gironde, and sank one of the submarines.

Enemy Intelligence

Two vessels, believed to be cruisers, were reported by aircraft off Utsire Island at 1020/5, steering south. Visibility was bad and the enemy vessels were not seen by a later patrol.

British Air Activity

Night operations last night were cancelled owing to adverse weather conditions.

Two ships of escort type were bombed today in a harbour of Utsire Island, resulting in near misses and a hit on the jetty.

Attacks were made during the day on various vessels off the coast of Norway and also on 4 trawlers proceeding into Dieppe
o

Enemy Air Operations

A large fire was started at West India Dock this evening.

Superficial damage to Portland Dockyard was caused by an attack this evening.

Dover was bombed early this afternoon. All bombs fell in the sea. There was a second attack this evening but again no naval damage or casualties were caused.

/WALLACE.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations-Contd.

WALLACE and convoy F.N. 100 were attacked off the coast of Suffolk this afternoon. No hits were obtained.

Convoy "Agent" (F.N.) was attacked this evening. No damage is reported.

Mining

Minelalaying by enemy aircraft last ni ght is suspected off the North East Coast and between Orfordness and Lowestoft and in the Thames Estuary.

The Swedish wireless and press announce that on 1/10 the SS GONDUL was mined in Trindel Channel, 2 miles south of Limhamn; salvage is believed to be possible. The Channel, which was supposed to be mine-free, was closed but is open again.

Mines have been found near the South Goodwin Lt. V. but search sweep was without result.

Blyth was reopened early this afternoon after sweeping.

A mine was exploded in the Humber this morning. The river was closed later.

M.V. ADAPTITY (372 tons) was mined and sunk at 1130 today off the Blackwater River.

North Atlantic

A.B.V.KINGSTON SAPPHIRE is reported to have been torpedoed this morning about 30 miles west of Cape Trafalgar.

2 French merchant vessels were sighted by air reconnaissance at 1630 today, 60 miles west of Alboran Island. F.O.C.N.A. has no destroyers available to bring them in, and in fact, the Straits of Gibraltar patrol is reduced to one destroyer and two trawlers, which are totally inadequate.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

Since 16/6 ten ships have been lost by enemy action or are still overdue on the East Indies Station. Passengers and crews from these ships must now total some 1800 persons and it is reasonable to suppose they have been landed and are being maintained somewhere. NEPTUNE is to carry out a search of Kerguelen before proceeding to Freetown.

C. in C., S.A. has issued instructions that Vichy French warships if met at sea south of Dakar are to be instructed to return to Casablanca or Dakar and are not to go to any French West African port. French submarines approaching any Free French port are to be sunk at sight. French merchant ships are to be sent in for examination, unless definitely established as under Free French control or proceeding in interests of Free French between Free French ports.

Mediterranean

160 bombs were dropped on Mersa Matruh today by raiders which arrived from seaward without warning. Some damage was caused. A.A. guns claim 3 hits.

East Indies

LEANDER escorting Convoy B.N. 6. was bombed at 1230 today, forty miles south of Jebel Qubair Island (Red Sea)

America and West Indies

The U.S.A. Navy have received a report of the sighting today, about midway between Bermuda and Porto Rico, of a submarine and a clinker built lifeboat without a name.

MOST SECRET.

5.10. 1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

A/S Trawlers in Firth of Forth. — Asking for reinforcement in order that essential patrols may be maintained (C.in C. Rosyth 1015/5).

Faeroes 2nd C.S. 18 C.S. — Local regulations for shipping (A.C.N.S.(H) 1307/5).
Ships of these cruiser squadrons, proceeding to Scapa for exercises will come under operational control of C.in C. H.F. while they are north of the Nore Command waters (A.C.N.S.(H) 1300/5).

Refits. — Request permission to resume refits in the case of local small craft (A.C.O.S. 1944/5).

Attacking at sight. — Amending Adty. 1212/21/9 (A.C.N.S.(H) 1252/5).

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge" — At 0220/5 (D.C.0201/5) at 1400/5 (D.C. 1439/5).

Destroyer shortage. — Adty. 1250/16/9 and 1127/5/10.

WOLVERINE must refit in immediate future leading only 3 destroyers available.

Anti-invasion patrol. — Only one of the 5 French T.B's is fit to go outside defences except in emergency. They are in any case inadequate in fighting power to meet any enemy torpedo craft.

I can cover the westbound merchant vessel groups by the two French sloops and the one efficient French T.B.

I consider it essential to have two destroyers at immediate notice at night at Portsmouth for unforeseen commitments. If this is accepted it is no longer possible to maintain the Dover commitment.

As it will take 12 hours to clear Antwerp and up to 18 hours to clear Dunkirk and even in poor visibility air R.C. can detect big movements, I suggest that I hold destroyers at Portsmouth in readiness to proceed to Dover area but cease the regular patrol. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2243/5.)

Your 1727/2. Although it is realised 4 French ships are ill found is it not

/possible .....

MOST SECRET.

5.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K. (continued)

possible to make greater use of 23rd.DF?
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1127/5 to C.in C. Portsmouth.

Movements.

ARK ROYAL
ARGUS

SHEFFIELD is to detach destroyers to R/V with ARK ROYAL ARGUS in 50° 00' 21° 32' at 0715/6. Route.

If short of fuel VERSATILE VIMY WITHERINGTON VISCOUNT are to be detailed earlier to meet ARK ROYAL as fuel permits.
9th D.F. are to escort ARK ROYAL to Liverpool. Remainder escort ARGUS to Clyde. Escort to be redistributed if necessary for destroyers to fuel at Lough Foyle.
If VERSATILE HARVESTER not in company they are to R/V with ARK ROYAL as situation permits.
(C.in C. W.A. 1149/5)

My 1149/5. ARK ROYAL ARGUS are to proceed on their route. Destroyers are to join as weather permits and are to report if not met by 2100/6. (C.in C. W.A. 1831/5).

Your 1149/5. Cannot reach position at time indicated. Will rendezvous as near position 051° 00' 021° 30' as possible.
(HURRICANE 1800/5).

VANITY — Expect to arrive 20 C Buoy 2130 (VANITY 1123/5)

Nore Command — Day patrols and movements to 1200/6 (C.in C. Nore 1200/5).

Reinforcement of N.W. Approaches Escort Force. — Intend sailing SARDONYX, SALADIN for Liverpool p.m. 6, STURDY 11/10 (C.in C. Portsmouth 1237/5).

Dover Patrols. — Night 5/6 (V.A. Dover 1304/5).

PEONY. — Your 0905/5 return to Rosyth (C.in C.W.A. 1319/5).

Orkneys. — Movements tonight (F.O.C.O.S. 1531/5).

/ Trawlers .....

MOST SECRET.

5.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued)

Trawlers to reinforce Belfast Trawler Force. — Intend to sail KINGSTON ALALITE, KINGSTON ANDALUSITE 1830 for Plymouth (C.in C. Portsmouth 1533/5).

Northern Patrol. — Trawler line tonight (F.O.C.O.S.1536/5).

VERSATILE HARVESTER HIGHLAND BRIGADE — Noon position. HARVESTER Asdic set and gyro compass out of action. VERSATILE Asdic set and D.C. coil out of action (VERSATILE 1600/5).

Western Channel — Night report (C.in C. W.A.1625/5).

ARISTOCRAT — When ready to sail for Leith for temporary service as guardship (D.O.D.(H) 1907/5)

M.T.B's — Available at Harwich 14-16-107, Sheerness 67-68, Chatham 31-32-5 (C.in C. Nore 1911/4).

TRIUMPH — Your 1709/17/8 (see Mediterranean Volume) TRIUMPH should now arrive Gibraltar approx. (date.) (V.A.(S) 2211(5) to Adty.).

Operations.

Operation "LUCID" — Your 2100/4. Force are much scattered at least one M.T.B. and one M.L. have broken down condition of oilers very doubtful do not consider operation can be satisfactorily carried out today. (C.in C. Nore. 0058/5 to Adty.).

Operation LUCID will not be carried out tonight. Prepare to carry out operation 6/10. (C.in C. Nore. 1036/5.).

Record of progress up to date with Operation LUCID.

2. The following breakdowns and defects have occurred in Oilers WAR NIZAM, MYTILUS, WAR BAHADUR. details.

3. 25/9 all Forces sailed but WAR NIZAM's speed dropped to 3 knots before reaching Edinburgh Channel owing to inexperienced engine room Personnel being unable to maintain requisite steam pressure. Operation therefore cancelled.

/ 4. 3/10 .....

MOST SECRET.

5.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued)

4. 3/10 majority of Units sailed in doubtful conditions of wind and visibility. By 1400 H.Q. reported air co-operation not possible. Added to this the wind was E.S.E. Operation cancelled at 1420. Forces returned but MYTILUS grounded on Nore Sand.

5. 4/10 MYTILUS remained aground until 1440 this combined with boiler defects limiting speed to 6 knots, precluded her sailing. All other Forces sailed although weather doubtful. By 1800 H.Q. reported air co-operation not possible. Weather was then deteriorating rapidly with strong S.S.W. wind and rising sea. Signals postponing operation from C.in C. Nore and Captain Agar crossed in transit. A number of Units returned to Sheerness and the Nore after dark but neither Oiler got in until well after daylight nor did the mine-sweepers or M.T.B. 34 who had hull and engine defects. Anxiety was felt for WAR NIZAM which had no anchors. Tugs were sent to her assistance and she was thereby enabled to heave to in Oaze Deep until daylight. The loss of these anchors is being investigated. M.T.B. 34 and M.L. 106 now returning to Felixstowe and Yarmouth respectively for extensive refits.

6. M.T.B's and M.L's. There are now only three of these craft in each force instead of 4. In view of the various duties assigned to them 4 in each Force is considered the minimum that should be employed. There are no replacements in the Nore Command for the casualties. Further the R.N.V.R. personnel of the M.L's have not reached the stage of efficiency and skill that are really required for an operation of this sort. There are no other craft in this Command that can replace them.

7. Constant breakdown of Oilers is exerting a severe strain on their Officers and men. Much depends on the speed at which they can approach their objective. One would like it to be 14 or 15 knots. If due to recurrent defects it is below 9 knots their chances of success must be materially reduced. (C.in C. Nore 1430/5.)

What steps are being taken to overcome the defects and difficulties mentioned in your 1430/5.
In view of the number of M.T.B's and M.L's under your orders it is not clear why 8 cannot be provided.
(1st S.L. 1922/5. to C.in C. Nore.).

Reply to 1922/5. Doubtful if NIZAM can be ready for service before 7/10.

/Explaining ....

MOST SECRET.

5.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations. (Continued)

Explaining shortage of M.T.B's and necessity for using only those with silent engines. (C.in C. Nore 2120/5).

Operation "Medium" — A.L. M/P.D.O.9087/40 of 4/10. Asking for an asdic fitted submarine to be detailed and sent to Plymouth as soon as possible (C.in C. W.A. 1753/5). Requesting information of any minefields. Intended date and time of operation. Re-bombing target area. (C.in C. W.A. 1921/5) Reply to C.in C. W.A. 1753/5. Suggest URSULA takes part in operations (F.O. Submarines 2229/5)

EREBUS — Requesting proposals for an operation employing EREBUS in very near future (A.C.N.S.(H) 2210/8 to C.in C. Nore.)

Patrol — Patrol by tonight (C.in.C. W.A. 1213/5 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

Submarines

UTMOST — Re R.V. with SWORDFISH, WARWICK DEEPING and HUGH WALPOLE. (UTMOST 0236/5, 0441/5).

UPRIGHT — Orders (Capt. (S)5 0725/5)

SWORDFISH Attack on destroyer 1/10 — A buoy has now been placed in position of SWORDFISH's attack 49° 48' N. 1° 24 W. Asdic dome lost and has other docking defects (C.in C. Portsmouth 1147/5)

JUNON — Asking that her completion may have high priority (V.A.S. 1157/5).

UTMOST — To exchange patrol areas after 2000/5 on account of UTMOST's "singing" propeller (Capt. (S)5 1331/5).

Positions & Movements. — 0700/6. (V.A.S) 1712/5).

British Air Activity.

Fighter protection — BRITISH PROGRESS (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0842/5) C.in C. W.A. 1139/5). 5.M.V's, 2 French ships. Code word "Chain" (C.in C. Portsmouth 1148/5).

/Defence of .....

MOST SECRET.

5.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Continued).

Defence of Fleet Base. My 1141/5. Re Grummans. Until reliability is proved defence of main fleet base should rest with a proved type of fighter aircraft. (C.in C. H.F. 1217/5).

Attacks on M.V's Large M.V. bombed 61° 18' N. 4° 50' E. No hits seen. Small coasting steamer machine gunned 61°4'N. 5°0'E. (Denibristle 1155/5).

GAVOTTE, CURACOA, SOUTHERN STAR. Expect 3 Blenheim fighters from 1800 until about 2000 (C.in C. Rosyth 1328/5).

Attacks on Escort vessels. 5/10 Blenheim on special R.C. attacked 2 ships of escort type in harbour at Utsire Island. No other operations carried out owing to unfavourable weather (H.Q.B.C. T.H.I. 2355/5).

~~Mining.~~

~~**ADAPTITY mined.** M/V ADAPTITY (378 tons) Southend to Grimsby was blown up by a mine at 1130 in approx. 51° 43'. Caught fire and sank rapidly. Survivors can give no information about explosion. Master of ADAPTITY was killed and two of crew injured brought into Harwich by M/V ACCLIVITY who was in company. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1805/5).~~

Enemy Air Activity.

Dover attacked twice Enemy aircraft dropped about 12 bombs in sea off Eastern Area 1240/5 (V.A. Dover 1404/5). At 1555/5 4 bombs dropped in harbour and 2 on military ground north of Castle. No casualties (V.A. Dover 1826/5)

WALLACE Attacked 52° 18'N. 1°59'E. by one aircraft, 5 bombs, no hits. (WALLACE 1725/5, 1729/5).

Convoy "Agent" Attacked 52° N. 1° E. by one enemy aircraft (C.in C. W.A. 1859/5).

Portland. Attack on Dockyard at 2021 by one or more machines which dropped about 10 bombs. One exploded on main road between Dockyard gate and power station, remainder fell in open spaces and in sea. Superficial damage. (F.O.I.C. Portland 2204/5) Details of damage (O.C.W. Portland 1600/6).

MOST SECRET.

5.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

Iceland. Proposal to operate Vatnsendi W/T Station (W.O. 1357/5).

Mining.

ADAPTITY mined. M/V ADAPTITY (372 tons) Southend to Grimsby was blown up by a mine at 1130 in approx. 51° 43'. Caught fire and sank rapidly. Survivors can give no information about explosion. Master of ADAPTITY was killed and two of crew injured brought into Harwich by M/V ACCLIVITY who was in company. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1805/5).

South Foreland. AC AC 1A reports mine believed German caught up in kite outer strings off South Foreland 0415/4. Mine believed swept at 0400 approx. 270° S. Goodwin Lt. V. 1 mile. At about this time WALNUT near South Goodwin Lt. V. 2 large explosions in sweep (C.in C. Nore 1158/5) Search sweep near South Goodwin Lt. V. from 1600 till dark. No mines cut (V.A. Dover 1936/5).

Blyth. Now open (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1434/5).

River Crouch No mine in river. Can safely be counter-mined. Request instructions (R.N.S.C. Great Yarmouth 1510/5).

3 M/S Trawlers. Off Eddystone. Asking for fighter protection, code word "Gamma" (C.in C. W.A. 1547/5).

Humber. Magnetic mine exploded 1043 near 62 D buoy (F.O. Humber1820/5) Humber closed to navigation mining suspected (F.O. Humber 2246/5).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Convoy	Convoy of 7 small M.Vs passed Fecamp at 1215/3 course S.W. (UTMOST 0201/5 C. in C., Portsmouth 1157/5)
Ostend	Aircraft R.C. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1240/5)
Gravelines	Considerable activity. Docks, barges and M.T. concentrations to be attacked night 5/6. (H.Q.C.C. 1503/5)
2 Cruisers off Utsire	Aircraft sighted 2 vessels thought to be cruisers in 59° 8' N., 4° 26' E., at 1200 course 180° speed 15 to 20 knots (C. in C., Rosyth 1612/5, H.Q.B.C. T.H.I. 2355/5)
Channel Is. Brest, Ushant Area	Aircraft R.C. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1715/5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

SWORDFISH	See Submarines
RAVONIA	Aground Haisboro Sand (VERDUN 0615/5) Refloated and proceeding. Am rejoining convoy (VERDUN 0650/5)
H.M.S.ASPHODEL	FLEUR DE LYS reports exchanged pendant at 0145 but not seen since. My position 56° 58' N., 8° 53' W., (SANDWICH 1130/5)
STORA	A/S Vessel. Grounded at Oban where she had gone to fuel. Damage. (WESTERN ISLES 1331/5, 1315/6)
DAPHNELLA	One Capetown 30/9 not arrived (S.O. (1) Capetown 1705B/5)
MANGKAI	See South Atlantic.

MOST SECRET

5.10.1940
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
H.X. 76	Meet. Route. (C. in C., W.A., 1230/5, 1830/5) Route from R.V. (D.T.D. 1308/5)
O.A. 224	Position (A.C.O.S. 1333/5) PHILANTE to meet (C. in C., W.A., 1353/5) 1 trawler to meet O.A. 224 and HASTINGS (C. in C., W.A., 1357/5)
S.L. 48	Not met. Position. (FLEETWOOD 1730/5)
S.H.X. 78	War material in certain ships. (N.C.S.O. Sydnet C.B. 1053/5)
S.C. 7.	Dreft sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1559/5 1601/5)
S.C. 8.	Route (D.T.D. 1850/5)
H.X. 74	On time at R.V., 31 ships (D.T.D. 1851/5)
H.X. 80	Route (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1046/5
O.B. 224	List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1551/5)
H.C. 45	List and destinations (F.O.C.N.A., 1231/5)
W.N. 21	To be sailed in 2 portions (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1815/5)
O.B. 226	Route (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1700/5)
O.R. 227	Route (D.T.D. 1245/5)
H.X. 78	Sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax, 1109/5 N.O.I.C. Halifax 1104/5)
S.H.X. 79	Advance sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1430/5)
O.B. 217	Your 1724/4 Convoy O.B. 217 Commodore Swabey signal 1210/22 and 2121/14 all passed to Commodore in P/L. Regret no previous definite information but expressed opinion of several Commodores. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1035/5 to Admty.)

Troop Convoys	
W.S. 3.	S.O.I. Freetown's 1603/4 (CUMBERLAND to R.V. with W.S. 3.) CUMBERLAND's broadcast not received. Convoy delayed at least 24 hours by gales. Position at 0900/5. (SHEFFIELD 1001/5) My 1949/4. Route for W.S. 3. Fast, amended. (C. in C., W.A., 1147/5) (N.C.S.O., Liverpool 1341/5) Liverpool Section date. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1611/5) Destroyers with W.S. 3. have to and parted company 2100/4. Position of W.S. 3. at 1400/5 Full S.W. gale. (SHEFFIELD, 1411/5) CUMBERLAND sailes 1300/4 for Ocean escort W.S. 3. relieving SHEFFIELD (position and date) (C. in C., S.A. 1239/3 Recd 1649/5

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd

WORCESTERSHIRE — To take 250 troops to Reykjavik on 12/10. (D.O.D. (H) 1924/5)

ROYAL ULSTERMAN — 530 troops for Iceland, to leave Clyde 12/10 Codeword ROBIN (D.O.D. (H) 1925/5)

Cargo Space — Your 1737/3. No Objection to loading of commercial cargo but as vessels are urgently required in U.K. request delay involved is reduced to minimum possible. (D.O.D.(F) 1220/5 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

Coastwise Convoys Escorts — C. in C., W.A's 1553/4. As O.A. convoys are to be abolished, I presume that E.N. and W.N. Convoys are referred to in para 4. Not understood why these difficulties should vanish if the responsibility were shifted to me.
Admty.1906/4/10 outlines an arrangement whereby convoy escorts change off the Clyde. It would therefore seem right that the convoys and escorts should be run from there Consider the excort outlined in para 3 E.O. Admty. 1906/4 quite inadequate both in numbers and armament.
Re fast and slow convoys being run on alternate days,as pointed out in my 1747/27/9 accepted by Admty. 1930/3/10, this was not possible with the number of escorting ships available.
Re Rosyth escort force, none of these ships are being refitted and the greater part of them are destroyers built between 1916 and 1918. (C. in C., Rosyth 1131/5 to Admty.)

Coastwise Convoys — Very limited scale of escort proposed ignores the practical aspect of convoy. Not possible for two Trawlers to control let alone protect a convoy of 30 or 40 ships particularly when in single line Would appear that sufficient A/S trawlers should be available to provide more than two per convoy.
Statement re coal stocks very disappointing in view of the success which has been achieved by Merchant Navy, R.N. and R.A.F. in maintaining the flow of trade on the East Coast. (figures) (C. in C., H.F. 1139/5 to Admty.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

CORNWALL
Duala

CORNWALL sailing 0700 Z/5. Your 2101N/4 is being passed to KENT via N.C.S.O. Duala and KELT has not been told route of M.T. convoy. KELT has been instructed that unless she received definite orders to join convoy she is to be on A/S patrol to southwards of Victoria by early dawn 7/10 until completion of disembarkation. If really urgent for KELT to have definite sailing orders before 7/10 I will have to return to vicinity of Cameroons River to pass message. (CORNWALL 0130Z/5 to C. in C., S.A. Amended 0814/5)

Libreville

Your 0130Z/5. Air reconnaissance of Libreville approved. Aircraft must remain unseen. After reconnaissance, return to Duala or vicinity. KELT to remain at Duala. (C. in C., S.A., 0405N/5 to CORNWALL)

BARHAM
Destroyers

Your 1801/4. FAULKNOR is 760 miles on way to Duala. BARHAM will probably sail within next 48 hours. For consideration request FORESIGHT whose W/T and A/S are out of action and cannot be repaired at Freetown (my 1055/2) should proceed to Gibraltar in addition to FORTUNE already detailed. (C. in C., S.A. 1607/5 to Adty.)
Your 1607/5. S.O.I. Freetown's 2005/2 reported FORESIGHT as having accompanied DEVONSHIRE. FORESIGHT should accompany BARHAM if ready as in my 0231/2. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., S.A., 2209/5)

MILFORD

To report expected time of arrival and what ships are with her. (C. in C., S.A. 2247/5)

Troop Transport
WESTERNLAND

My 1815/1. Operation with de Gaulle force is arranged (? on basis of) transhipment of troops at Ambas Bay, Victoria, as large transports cannot enter Cameroons river, arrangements for official modification made with Governor, Nigeria. Final proposal is that all forces go to Duala as arranged except that de Gaulle asks that 500 troops shall go on to Pointe Noire in WESTERNALAND If WESTERNLAND. If WESTERNLAND goes to Pointe Noire consider she will require ocean and A/S escort as before. If force can be made available for longer period propose CORNAWALL, instead of relieving the D class cruiser with M.T. Convoy, shall escort WESTERNLAND to Pointe Noire with destroyers when C.S.1. can release these. (C. in C., S.A., 1311/5 to Adty.)

My 1311.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

My 1311/5 Governor Nigeria reports WESTERNLAND can almost certainly berth alongside should certainly get well inside in smooth water. This information obtained from recent chart confirmed by Capt. American ship now in Lagos who has just arrived from Pointe Noire. (C. in C., S.A., 1723N/5)

PENNLAND
WESTERNLAND

My 1311N/5. De Gaulle in his communication also states "Later on Foreign Legion, tanks and part of motor transport group will be sent to Middle East after arrangements to be concluded with London Government and General Wavell.
I ask therefore that PENNLAND and WESTERNLAND or at least one of them should remain at my disposal at Victoria for transport later of elements destined for Middle East"
If this proposal is agreed to movement will not take place for some time. No facilities for fuelling or protection at Victoria. Recommend that both ships return to Freetown or as required, necessary transport for troops to Middle East being arranged later. (C. in C., S.A., 1313N/5)

"Alloy"
"Shrapnel"

Force "Alloy" will proceed Gibraltar as soon as Admiralty can arrange. Troops in Force "Shrapnel" remain Freetown and will disembark there as and when accommodation becomes available. (W.O. 1325/5 to G.O.C., W. Africa)

Force "A" H.Qs., Force H.Qs., Sig. Sec. and 10 Independent Coy. will not accompany "Alloy" but will await orders at Freetown. (W.O., 1500/5 to G.O.C., W. Africa)

Part of the force recently employed at Dakar consisting of two battalions Royal Marines and certain auxiliary troops totalling approximately 2000 will arrive Gibraltar in two ships on date to be notified. Stay in Gibraltar temporary. Unnecessary arrange accommodation ashore. (W.O. 1500/5 to Govr. Gibraltar)

When Force "Alloy" proceeds to sea essential Brig. Morford sails in BARHAM so that we can communicate with him. (W.O., 1755/5 to Force A and C. in C., S.A.)

/Treatment of.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

Treatment of French Ships.

Following instructions issued to ships on South Atlantic Station regarding action to be taken when French Merchant Ships or Warships are met.
(a) Vichy French Warships if met at sea South of Dakar should be prevented from going to any French West Africa port. They should be instructed to return to Casablanca or Dakar
(b) Submarines are to be treated as hostile and sunk at sight if approaching any Free French Port. (?If) met at sea except in neutral territorial waters, they are to be treated as hostile unless on the surface and escorted. Surface warships escorting submarine are to be informed that any attempt by submarine to dive will be treated as a hostile act and immediate retaliatory action will be taken againts surface ships and submarine.
(c) French merchant ships unless definitely established as under Free French control or proceeding in interests of Free French between Free French ports are to be sent in for examination.
Free French Territory to be regarded as French Cameroons and Equatorial Africa excluding Gabon (Libreville)
Important to prevent provisions, supplies and reinforcements from reaching Vichy French Ports in West Africa South of Dakar and Gabon in particular. (C. in C., S.A., 1957/5)

De Gaulle Plans

In telegram from Governor Nigeria, latter stated that De Gaulle's first object after landing at Duala would be to gain control of Libreville and that it was hoped to do this within one month.
If without specially consulting De Gaulle you can give me any idea as to how he intends to do this I shall be grateful.
If from the sea is it his intention that only Free French Naval Forces should be used or do you think his idea is that the British Navy should take part?
(1st S.L. 2218/5 to C.S.I)

/ French M/Vs.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

French M/V's

2 French merchant vessels bearing 100° distance 60 miles from ALB (point of land used locally at Gibraltar) course 080° speed 8 knots. (F/B K. 5261, 1630/5)

1 French Elan bearing 190° Europa 10, course 280° speed 12 knots. (? 1635/5)

F/B 1630/5. Confirm that these ships if unescorted are being brought in. (1st S.L. to F.O.C.N.A. 2129/5)

Following from Ambassador, Washington: Learn that several cargo vessels conveyed by destroyers cleared Dakar night of 30/9 for Marseilles. (1st S.L. 2217/5 to F.O.C.N.A)

Your 2129/5. Ships almost certainly those which passed Straits of Gibraltar under escort as in my 1517/4 and 1601/5. Of 4 destroyers, one in dock, one escorting NEURALIA, one searching for KINGSTON SAPPHIRE, believed torpedoed, and one with 2 trawlers maintaining inadequate Straits of Gibraltar patrol. Therefore no craft available to send such long distances. (F.O.C.N.A., 2324/5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

KINGSTON SAPPHIRE Torpedoed

KINGSTON SAPPHIRE armed boarding vessel (Trawler) reported torpedoed 36.11 N., 06.31 W., at about 0930 (F.O.C.N.A., 1237/5) Cannot be replaced from Northern Patrol. Request consideration to relieve Western Patrol trawlers at Gibraltar by 4 A/S trawlers or corvettes not from Northern Patrol. Vessels relieved can be fitted A/S on return and are required to reinforce Northern Patrol during winter months. (F.O.C.N.P., 1640/5) WRESTLER and KINGSTON TOPAZE searching from position 090° Cape Trafalgar 25' towards Cape St. Vincent tonight. Flying boat search at daylight. (F.O.C.N.A., 2225/5)

My 1237/5 and 1931/5. KINGSTON SAPPHIRE signal reporting her torpedoing was received in KINGSTON TOPAZE only at 0326/5 but not passed to Gibraltar till 1030. Further search by WRESTLER, KINGSTON TOPAZE and aircraft unsuccessful. Fear KINGSTON SAPPHIRE must be considered lost. Very remote possibility exists of survivors having been picked up by Spanish fishing boat or passing vessel. (F.O.C.N.A., 1220/6)

French Merchant Shipping

Telegram 456 to F.O., describes several French merchant vessels sneaking up the coast past Cape Spartel plying in territorial waters towards East unescorted Fears this new evasion of blockade may become serious if steps are not taken to intercept. (Mr Gascoigne, Tangier, Morocco, 1400/5)

South Atlantic

ALCANTARA

Your 1133/2. Can be taken in hand by Harland and Wolff, Southampton (date) (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., S.A., 1511/5)

MANGKAI

Your 0955B/3. Delayed repairing fire damage, Java. (D. of S.T. to S.O.I. Capetown, 1612/5)

NEPTUNE

C. in C., E.I., 0538/4. To carry out search of Kerguelen before proceeding Freetown. (D.O.D. (F) 1649/5)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA

Re despatch of relief officers and ratings to Freetown. (D. of S.T., 1606/5)

/A.P. 3.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

A.P. 3. CLAN MACARTHUR and ULSTER PRINCE, which arrived Capetown 5/10, cannot maintain speed of 15½ knots. Intend sailing with CARNARVON CASTLE as escort to join CLAN CAMPBELL, Durban. Propose sail from Durban as A.P. 3. Slow with KANIMBLA as escort. A.P. 3. fast from Capetown with CANTON as escort will R.V. with CARTHAGE at 0700 G.M.T./9. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1113Z/5)

Overdue Ship DAPHNELLA due Capetown 30/9 not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1705Z/5)

BRECONSHIRE Orders Following is a repetition of my 2247/5. BRECONSHIRE is to proceed 1600 for Capetown at speed of advance 17 knots by following route. To arrive end searched channel at 1200/14. (C. in C., S.A., 2113/5)

Mediterranean

Aircraft My 1824/27/9. 18 Brewsters being shipped via Cape, additional to Gladiators named in my 1908/9/9. (5th S.L. to C. in C., Med. 1806/5)

Destroyers Now proposed GREYHOUND, GALLANT, GRIFFIN and HOTSPUR should accompany BARHAM to join your flag, on assumption that you do not require another Capt. (D) (V.C.N.S. to C. in C., Med., 1923/5)

S/M Patrols Operation B.S. 2 patrol lines to be established. (Capt. S. 1. to S/M's. 1953/5) Further orders to submarines. (Capt S.1. 1955/5)

Enemy Convoys Glen Martin Aircraft on reconnaissance from Malta reported convoy of 8 merchant ships probably unladen, in 37.50 N., 16.05 E., off Cape Spartivento, at 1525/5, course E. (D.S. 397)
Aircraft on reconnaissance reported 7 merchant ships and 3 destroyers in Benghazi Harbour, and 3 merchant ships and 1 destroyer at anchor ½ mile N.W. of harbour. 3 ships in harbour seen to be damaged. In Tobruk, 4 merchant ships (D.S. 397)

Tobruk Bombed Dusk attack on Tobruk. Bombs hit small ships at jetties, damage not observed. (D.S. 397)

/TIGRIS.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

TIGRIS Attack — Attacked 3 Italiab U-Boats, Italian Submarine SANTORRE SANTAROSSA, 2 patrol vessels believed to be French sloop M/S ELAN, entering Matelier Pass 0700. Sank one Italian U-Boat., (TIGRIS, 2022/5)

French Ships — My 2225/2 and 1327/4. Sailing of these groups of ships from Marseilles postponed to 8/10 and 10/10 respectively. (C. in C., Med., 2018/5)

East Indies

LEANDER Bombed — LEANDER escorting Convoy B.N. 6. bombed about 40' S. of Jebel Qubair Is. Red Sea at 1230 (D.S. 397)

K.D. 1. — Convoy K.D. 1. LLANGIBBY CASTLE and LLANSTEPHEN CASTLE, escorted by CERES, to leave Mombassa fro Durban 6/10. Route. (C. in C., E.I., 06322/5)

Raiders — Your 1440Z/30. Admiralty appreciation of raider activities in your waters as follows:-
(a) One raider known to have sunk HAXBY west of Azores on 24/4,, laid mines off Cape early in May, proceeded to New Zealand, laid mines off Aukland and captured TROPIC SEA on 18/6 Still in Pacific at end of June when TROPIC SEA parted company, and up till then had made no further captures.
Probable she has remained in Eastern Pacific and sank or captured French NOTOU about 14/8 and TURAKINA on 20/8.
(b) Second raider possibly sank SCIENTIST in South Atlantic about 3/5 and then entered Indian Ocean, being responsible for sinkings South of Ceylon in mid-July and afterwards the sinkings South and East of Madagascar.
(c) Agree as to possibilities referred to in your para. (C). (D.D.I.C., 1129/5 to C. in C., E.I.)

E.S. 6. — Convoy sailing telegram (S.E.N.O. Suez Canal 1224/5)

A.P. 3. — Admty. 0043/29 and my 1232/1. Intend SHROPSHIRE, CARLISLE, FLAMINGO and 2 destroyers to escort A.P. 3. through Red Sea danger area. Same escort less one destroyer will escort CLAN CAMPBELL (Convoy A.P. 3½) (C. in C., E.I., 12302/5)

/KANIMBLA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

A.P. 3½ Contd. KANIMBLA required to escort CLAN CAMPBELL from Durban to longitude of Aden, where Red Sea Force will take over. Convoy known as A.P. 3½ (date and route) CLAN CAMPBELL will not call at Aden. (C. in C., E.I., 1232Z/5)

China

Stores for Chungking Your 1359/21, transport of stores for U.S Embassy and U.S. gunboat at Chungking via Burma Road. Matter also raised by British Ambassador to China, and necessary arrangements are proceeding. (Hd. of M., to C. in C., China, 1203/5)

Financial Measures My 1036Z/1. Views of M. de Schompre on use of financial weapon in Indo-China. Suggesting conference of British, American and Free French bankers to promulgate plan. (C. in C., China, 0449Z/5)

HAIGKAI Dutch (ex German SCHEER) Your 0955/3. Ship has returned to Sourabaya for repairs. (S.O.I., Singapore, to S.O.I., Capetown, 0857/5)

America & West Indies

HAKOZAKI MARU Your 1121/4. Japanese HAKOZAKI MARU may be released provided (A) you are satisfied (1) as in my 1237/4 concerning Japanese HAKONE MARU (2) that no uncertificated cargo was loaded at Lisbon (B) that any mails embarked at Lisbon are removed for examination (C) that passengers if any are examined. (D.E.W.D. 1849/5 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

U.S. Destroyers (Canada) Your 1216/3. Asking how Admty. can help with personnel. Courses in American torpedoes being formed in VERNON. Glad to include any R.C.N. ratings. (1st S.L. to C.N.S., Ottawa) 2319/5)

U-Boat Sighted in West Indies. (N.A. Washington 1213/5- see U-Boat Campaign)

Australia

U.S. 6. U.S. 7. Proposed composition (D. of S.T., to A.C.N.B 1921/5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ARAUCA — At Port Everglades, Florida. Re-attached on a claim for 24,000 dollars.. 2 further claims for £13,000 and £8,000 will be pressed if the 24,000 dollar claim is paid. (D.S. 397)

GERMANIA — At Ponta Delgada, Azores, asked Standard Oil Co., New Jersey to supply 60 tons of oil. Request refused. (D.S. 397)

KLAUS SCHOKE — Showing indication of preparations to leave Horta, Azores. (D.S. 397)

BRANDENBURG — Small steamer. Informed by Ruegen Station at 1240/5 not to put into Stettin before night of 6/10 as disembarkation of passengers cannot take place before 7/10. (D.S. 397)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

LEME — At Portland, Oregon. General cargo discharged. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1447/5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

OTTOLAND — Dutch, 2202 tons, in F.S. 100, holed by explosion believed torpedo, at approx 0330/5 in position 4 miles south of 20 A Buoy. Sank at 1430/5 in 54° 50½' N., 00° 53' W., All crew saved. No injuries. Survivors picked up by H.M.P. M/S GLENGOWER and landed at North Shields. (F.O.I.C.Tyne, 2032/5) Explosion occurred in 54.47 N., 1.07 W., (D.S. 397)

Explosion on board (C.in C., Rosyth 0422/5, intercept 0245 G.M.T.) Still afloat crew still on board explosion foreship (Cullercoats, intercept 0344 G.M.T., Recd. Adty 0507/5) Still afloat between 20 A Buoy and 20 Buoy requires assistance. (Rosyth, Rec. Adty. 0700/5)

KINGSTON SAPPHIRE — Armed boarding vessel, eported torpedoed (See North Atlantic) Presumably torpedoed by Italian U-Boat 36.11 N., 6.32 W., at 0930/5. (D.S. 397)

Submarines Reported

1210-1417 — 51.30 N., 20.00 W., at 1210, unreliable fix (C. in C., W.A., to SHEFFIELD and HARVESTER 1303/5, D.D.I.C. 1300/5)

1215 — 53.54 N., 00.15 E., reported by trawler escort of F.N. 99. (A.C.H.Q., Chatham, 1700/5

1035 — 57.58 N., 11.59 W., at 1035 (C. in C., W.A. 1847/5 to SCIMITAR etc., and 1859/5 to all ships Area B)

1613 — 52.40 N., 23° W., indefinite position, say 480° W of Valencia. (D.S. 397)

2028 — 49.30 N., 11.30 W., reliable position, 214° Eastnet 132' (D.S. 397)

1300 — 50.17 N., 3.34 W., reported by Observer Corps (C.3.) (D.S. 397)

America & West Indies

Navy have received wireless report from SS BROOKLYN HEIGHTS of sighting submarine in 25.38' N., 66.30' W., at 1330/5 and a clinker built lifeboat with no name at 0800 same day. Submarine not American. (N.A.Washington, 1213/5)

/Estimated.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.10.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- No further news.

German- 1 may arrive Lorient night 5/6th
1 may be in vicinity of Porcupine Bank, course Northerly.
1 in about 52 N., 22 W. at 1209/4 and 1 about 90 miles further North at 0206/5.
1 in about 55 N. 18 W at 1607/4
1 to Westward of Rockall
1 may pass Muckle Flugga homeward night 5/6th
No further news of U/B N.W. of Malin Head.
(D.D.I.C. 1311/5)

Submarines Attacked

1042 — By VANITY 53.53 N., 0.24 E., attacked contact (A.3.) 027° Spurn Point 18' (D.S.397)

0700
Italian U/B Sunk — Attacked 3 Italian U-Boat Italian submarine SANTORRE SANTAROSSA 2 patrol vessels believed to be French sloop M/S ELAN entering Matelier Pass 0700. Sank one Italian U/B (TIGRIS 2022/5)

(13)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.10.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Dover Straits Patrol

In view of the reduction of forces available at Portsmouth, patrol of Dover Straits by Portsmouth destroyers will only be carried o out on special occasions.
Two or three destroyers from the Nore Command will carry out an intermittent patrol on two nights a week and whenever weather conditions and intelligence suggest the enemy may be encountered.

Destroyers to reinforce N.W.Approaches Escort Force

Sailing of SARDONYX from Portsmouth was postponed 24 hours on account of weather. SALADIN has developed defects requiring 10 days to make good, and STURDY is boiler cleaning.

2nd Towns Flotilla

This Flotilla is now reduced by a third vessel, ROXBURGH (ex FOOTE) having to return to St. John's N.F. this afternoon with defects.

Convoy Tactics

In view of the present U-Boat tactics it is considered that no useful purpose is served in convoys of under 11 knots carrying out a zig-zag. More use is to be made, instead, of evasive steering.

Enemy Intelligence

Reconnaissance shows that a continuous patrol of E-Boats assisted by M.Ls is maintained within 13 miles of Cape de la Hague.

British Air Activity

Operations last night were adversely affected by the weather. Shipping was bombed at Rotterdam. One aircraft bombed Flushing. Coastal Command attacked shipping, quays and dry docks at Brest with effect, and barges at Gravelines.

Patrols today were seriously curtailed by the weather. Aircraft on offensive reconnaissance attacked Ostend, Calais, Boulogne, Den Helder, Stavoren, Enkhuisen and Dordrecht, damaging barges and a ship.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.10.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

A further attack was made on West India Dock during the early hours of this morning and a serious fire was caused.

Ford Naval Air Station was attacked last night, but there was no damage.

Coaster FIRECREST was bombed and machine gun gunned by a single enemy aircraft this afternoon, 2½ miles S.W. of Sunk L.V. Nine bombs were dropped with no apparent damage, but the ship's Lewis gunner died of wounds from machine gun fire.

Mining

R.A.F. last night laid mines in the Elbe Estuary and at a position 15 miles N.E. of Heligoland. Two of the four aircraft engaged in the operations did not report to base.

Minelaying be enemy aircraft was carried out last night from the Humber to the Thames Estuary.
The Humber was reopened at 1001 today.

SS JERSEY QUEEN was mined and sunk early this morning off St. Anthony Point (Falmouth) in the swept channel, in the contact minefield laid by enemy destroyers during the night 28/29 September.

North Atlantic

French destroyer FLEURET was sighted this morning off Europa Point steering westward Later in the forenoon M/S sloop DELAGE, escorting two French merchant ships, passed Gibraltar west to east.

N.C.S.O. Lisbon reports that about 24 ships are sailing independently during 7/10 and 8/10 from ports in Portugal, to join Convoy H.C. 45 at Gibraltar, that German agents are spreading many threats.

/F.O.C.N.A.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.10.1940
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic-Contd.

F.O.C.N.A. is unable to provide any protection on this occasion or so long as part of 13th D.F. is required for Force H. (Four Destroyers of 13th D.F. must always be available at short notice for S.O. Force H during absence of 8th D.F. with force H.

The reappearance of U-Boats in the Western Approaches to Gibraltar is probably due to the reduced number of vessels available for Straits Patrol. Until the return of 8th D.F. F.O.C.N.A. is unable to maintain continuous extended patrol to the eastward of Gibraltar, which is necessary to give S.O.Force H. adequate warning of the approach of enemy or French surface vessels. The maximum reconnaissance effort of available aircraft does not guarantee adequate warning over 24 hours.

South Atlantic

BARHAM left Freetown for Gibraltar this evening, with ESCAPADE, GREYHOUND, ECHO, FORTUNE and 2 transports.

East Indies

LEANDER and Convoy B.N. 6. were again bombed early this morning in the southern part of the Red Sea but were undamaged.

3 Blenheims attacked Massawa today, but bombs fell short and did no damage.

MOST SECRET

6.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

1st TOWNS Flotilla

Your 1309/5 1840/4 and my 2018/1.

936. It is very desirable that first Flotilla Town class Destroyers shall carry out working up practices and obtain experience in Approaches as soon as practicable. It is estimated that a period of about 14 days will be required to fit VC-VF and in order to prevent further delay it is intended to defer ifting this gear until ships are taken in hand for fitting asdics and other necessary alterations. (C.in C. W.A. 0134/6 to Adty.).

Small Craft Refits.

Local small craft may now be taken in hand for normal Routine Refits. (1st S.L. 1432/6 to C!s-in-C.)

Anti-Mine Precautions in Western Approaches.

Your 1921/5. Mines are believed to exist in Area laid down in 91 QZX. In view of Magnetic Mines laid by Germans in the Approaches, Capital Ships and Cruisers should keep outside 20 fathoms and Destroyers outside 10 fathoms. (D.D.I.C. 1847/6 to C.in C. W.A.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals

C. in C. Portsmouth's 2243/5. I agree. Should be quite willing to take over Dover Patrol subject to (1) Patrol to be intermittent of 2 or 3 Destroyers on 2 or 3 nights a week depending on other Nore Destroyer commitments and (2) Route Southward from N. Foreland to be kept clear of Mines by Dover Sweepers.
(C.in C. Nore 1000/6 to Adty.). Consider advantageous for Patrol to be carried out from Nore as proposed. Routes in Dover Area are already swept by Dover Sweepers.
(V.A. Dover 1103/6 to Adty.)

My 1250/16.
C.in C. Portsmouth's 2243/5 and C.in C. Nore's 1000/6.
In view of reduction of forces available at Portsmouth, patrol of Dover Straits by forces of Portsmouth Command will only be carried out on special occasions.
2. C.in C. Nore requested arrange for an intermittent patrol consisting of 2 or 3 destroyers on two nights a week and whenever the weather conditions and intelligence available suggest the enemy may be encountered.

/ 3. V.A. Dover .....

MOST SECRET

6.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K. (Continued).

3. V.A. Dover requested to keep route to the southward of the North Foreland swept by the minesweepers based on Dover. (A.C.N.S. H. 1749/6).

Rosyth Small Craft. Notice for Steam.

Minesweepers and A/S vessels based on Granton to keep steam as in my 1217/1/10. Signal will be made daily at 1600 ordering Notice for Steam during dark hours of all other small craft in Rosyth Command. (C.in C. Rosyth 1207/6.)

Movements.

KENYA — To sail from Scapa 1900/7, course, speed, to R.V. with Convoy W.S.3 fast in (position) (date), C.in C. W.A. to arrange A/S air escort from daylight 8/10 as far along the route as possible (C.in C. H.F. 0953/6)

PHILANTE — Sailed 6/10 Tobermory in accordance with C.in C. W.A. 1353/5 (WESTERN Isles 1100/6)

VETERAN — Intend to sail from Sheerness for Harwich 1300/7 (C.in C. Nore 1130/6)

SALOPIAN — Will pass Bar Lt. V. 1600/6. Route. Speed. (SALOPIAN 1150/6) Adty. 1150/6. For 1600/6, read 1000/7 (SALOPIAN 1855/6).

SALADIN — has developed defect in steering engine that will take 10 days to make good.

STURDY — is being taken in hand for boiler cleaning.

SARDONYX — will be sailed for Plymouth p.m./6. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1307/6, C.in C. W.A. 1625/6)
Note. Above 3 ships are to join N.W. Approaches Escort Force see C.in C. Portsmouth 1237/5.
Sailing of SARDONYX postponed 24 hours owing to weather (C.in C. Portsmouth 1657/6.)

Dover Patrols. — Night 6/7 (V.A. Dover 1430/6).

/ ANTHONY .....

MOST SECRET.

6.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

ANTHONY H.X.75	Destroyers to Clyde on passing. Trawlers to Belfast. Corvettes to Liverpool with convoy (C.in C. W.A. 1447/6 to ANTHONY).
VERSATILE VISCOUNT WITHERINGTON	If fit for service, to join inward escort of ARK ROYAL, ARGUS when weather permits. Report situation. (C.in C. W.A.1507/6.) See Casualties and Defects.
Orkneys	Movements tonight (A.C.O.S.1531/6)
Northern Patrol	Trawler line occupied 6/10 (A.C.O.S. 1536/6).
PINTAIL	Left Harwich 1553/6 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1558/6)
M/S drifters for Belfast	Asking for fighter protection for SILVER SEAS, NORTHERN WAVE, ARAB, ST. KENAN, NORTHERN SPRAY, 0630/7 to 0700/9. Ports of departure. Positions 1430/7 to 0700/9. N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1710/6)
ARGUS	Adty. 1931/4. Request early information of departure of ARGUS for Iceland (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1942/6)
ROXBURGH.	My 1412/3. Is returning to St. John's, N.F., as excessive fuel consumption on first 2 days showed destination could not be reached. (B.S.3. 1646/6 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Operation LUCID

Postponed 24 hours. (C.in C. Nore 0924/6 to D.16, etc.)
Para. 10. Request Zero Time for 7/8 be transmitted in time for sailing orders to be signalled and Fighter protection arranged, before Ships sail. (C.in C. Nore 0954/6 to Adty.).
Prepare to carry out LUCID tomorrow night 7/8. Zero hour will be 0240/8.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1705/6 to C.in C. Nore).

EREBUS

Your 2210/5. Propose EREBUS shoot at Gris Nez guns on same night as LUCID opening fire at zero hour plus 15 minutes. This is feasible only if Ostend attack is cancelled to provide destroyer escort for EREBUS. Consider that EREBUS will form a better diversion and the cancellation of Ostend will be no loss. Request early approval.
(C.in C. Nore 1226/6 to Adty.)

Your 1226/6. It is very undesirable to introduce any complications into Operation LUCID. Request you forward proposals for operating EREBUS without interfering with LUCID. (1st S.L. 1920/6 to C.in C. Nore)

Operation D.N.

Periodical raids by own Destroyers and possibly Cruisers against Enemy Shipping between Skudesness and Lister are intended. Particulars and Routes. Submarines will be warned and if practicable will be moved clear. (Capt. S.9. 1557/6 to RUBIS and O.23).

Iceland.

Adty. 1931/4. Request early information of date of departure for Iceland.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 1942/6 to Adty.)

Operation MEDIUM

Cover for W S 3.

It has been intended to sail one cruiser and at least three destroyers of Fifth Destroyer Flotilla on 8/10 to cover convoy W S 3 fast from attack by enemy destroyers at Brest. This, however, would leave me insufficient modern destroyers for operation MEDIUM. Intend therefore not to sail covering force for W S 3 fast unless air reconnaissance fails to locate enemy in Brest. If these are sailed propose that operation MEDIUM should be postponed until after return of covering force.
(C.in C. W.A. 2017/6 to Adty.)

/Iceland .....

MOST SECRET

6.10.1940.
Sunday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Continued)

Iceland — Suggest I approach Icelandic Government to allow us to take over dismantled W/T station at Vatnsendi for communication with U.K. Advantages of securing this station. Have you any objection. (Alabaster, Reykjavik 1357/5 to War Office)

Submarines

PORPOISE — Movements. (Capt. S.2. 1107/6)

0.21 — Movements. (Capt. S.9 1121/6)

SWORDFISH — My 1147/5. SWORDFISH reports continuous E.Boat Patrols off Cape de la Hague and her attack at 0944/1 on 4 Enemy Destroyers in 49° 48' N. 1°24'W. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1127/6 to Adty.)

0.22 — Movements. (Capt. S.9. 1417/6).

Greenock Area. — Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1522/6)

URSULA. — Movements. (Cpt. S.5. 1703 to URSULA)

Positions. — For following 24 hours at 0700/7. (V.A.S. 1714/6).

British Air Activity.

Rotterdam Docks, Flushing — Attacked by Aircraft, Night 5/6. (H.Q.B.C. 1727/6).

Nore. — Night R/C not flown owing to weather. (C.in C. Nore 0507/6 to C.in C. Rosyth)

Rosyth. — Patrols SAZN, SAIE, and W1 cancelled owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0908/6 to Adty.) No S.A. Patrols being flown this evening owing to weather (C.in C. Rosyth 1814/6 to Adty.)

/Newlyn Trawlers .....

MOST SECRET

6.10.1940.
Sunday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity. (Continued)

Newlyn Trawlers — Request Air Ministry be informed that Belgian Trawlers working from Newlyn now have Lewis Guns and that all British aircraft be warned not to approach them. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1046/6 to Adty.)

Helder Havre to Cherbourg — Following two Patrols against Shipping to be carried out at dusk to-day. (H.Q.C.C. to 16 Group).

Enemy Air Activity.

FIRECREST. — Coaster, reports attacked by one Aircraft at 1530/6, 2½ miles S.W. of Sunk L.V. 9 Bombs dropped, no damage, then machine-gunned killing one gunner. (C.in C. Nore 2105/6 to Adty.).

Mining.

JERSEY QUEEN — British, 910 tons. Mined and sunk 1½ miles South of St. Anthony Point. 10 survivors landed at Falmouth, 2 missing. Position unreliable. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0530/6 to Adty.).

S.N. 10 A. / S.N. 6 A. and 10 B. / S.N. 3. — Owing to loading situation propose to lay in that order. (R.A.M.L. 0944/6 to Adty.).

B.S. 40. — As far as can be foreseen, Escort from 20th D.F. can be available on any date you desire. (C.in C. Nore 0950/6 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Humber. — Open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 1001/6 to Adty.).

CADET TWO. — Will be operating in Eastern Approaches to 1400/7. Request Air Cover. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1559/6 to H.Q.F.C.)

Thames Estuary. — Coaster ROBUST reports two large under-water Explosions at 0600/6 in 51° 30' 6"N. 1°27' 6"E. No damage. (C.in C. 1757/6 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

6.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Havre, Fecamp, Dieppe, Boulogne)	R/C by Aircraft at 1705/5. (P.I.U.0308/6 to N.I.D.)
Cherbourg, Lorient) Cape de la Hague, Brest)	Naval Forces seen P.M./5. (D.D.I.C. 0915/6)
Boulogne.	Shipping in Ourter Harbour at 1100/6. (P.I.U. 1640/6 to N.I.D.). (P.I.U.1747/6 to N.I.D.
Seine Bay.	My 1126/2. Torpedo Bomber Patrol at dusk between Le Havre and Cherbourg. (V.A.S. 1733/6 to Submarines on Patrol B).
Calais, Dunkirk, Zoebrugge, Ostend, Gravelines.	Shipping and Barges at 1145/6. (P.I.U. 1836/6 to N.I.D.)
Calais, Boulogne, Rheine, Harlingen Stavoren.	Shipping and Barges at 0748 to 1100/6. (H.Q.B.C. 1727/6).
Helder, Ijmuiden.	Shipping seen A.M./6 (H.Q.B.C.1727/6).

MOST SECRET

6.10.1940.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

PRIMULA. Corvette. Requires escort to port owing to shortage of fuel and extensive damage by gale. Request which port. (C.in C.W.A. 0037/6 to Adty.). Can be taken in hand at Birkenhead on 10/10. (D.O.D. H. 1351/6 to C.in C. W.A.).

MOUNT TAYGETUS. Greek, 3286 tons. About 10 miles East of St. Govens Light Vessel, oil supply gone and unable raise steam. Ship drifting for 2 hours. (Scapa Base Ship 0047/6). Anchors holding. Will call later only if necessary. (MOUNT TAYGETUS 0157 to Burnham-on-Sea Radio). Require assistance urgently. (Burnham-on-Sea Radio 0855/6 to Admiralty). Position 5 miles East of St. Govens Head. Rolling heavily. Request 2 tugs. (Burnham-on-Sea Radio 1252 to Adty.) Managed raise steam. Trying proceed Swansea but position doubtful. (Burnham-on-Sea Radio 1750 to Adty.) Steam gone again. Can you confirm tugs leaving Swansea at 1930 (Burnham-on-Sea Radio 2037/6 to Adty.)

DAPHNELLA British Tanker, 8078 tons. My 1705/5. Arrived Cape Town. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1005 B/6.)

ANTELOPE. C.in C. W.A. 1037/4. (Escort for W.S.3) Main steam joint blowing. Estimate Ship will be delayed 48 hours. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1150/6 to Adty.)

BROCKLEY HILL. British, 5297 tons. Damaged by collision ex Convoy H.X.75 arrived here escorted by A/S Trawler LADY ELSA. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1125/6 to N.O.I.C. Belfast). Details of damage. Master considers he can make Clyde if escorted. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1154/6 to Adty.)

EILEEN EMMA LADY ERASSEY sailed at 0800/6 to her assistance and returned to harbour at 1220. (V.A. Dover 1221/6 to Adty.).

ROXBURGH. See Movements.

SALADIN. My 1237/5. Has defect in steering-engine that will take 10 days to make good. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1307/6 to A.C.W.A.).

/BRITTANY COAST .....

MOST SECRET.

6.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. (Continued).

BRITTANY COAST. Stem buckled and 4 feet flooded. Unseaworthy until temporarily repaired which will take 6 or 7 days. Full general cargo is undamaged. (Chief Salvage Officer 1535/6 to A.C.O.S.)

MANGKAI. (Ex German SCHEER.) Your 0955/3. Ship has returned to Sourabaya for repairs. (S.O.I. Singapore 0857/5 to S.O.I. Cape Town).

EASTERN PRINCE. British, 10,926 Tons. Starboard engine broken down. Speed reduced to 8 knots. My position 56° 41'N. 8° 5' W. steering 141° at 8 knots. (WHITEHALL 1930/6 to C.in C. W.A.).

VERSATILE. Your 1507/6. Unseaworthy. D.G. and A.S. out of action and serious Oil-Fuel Leaks into living spaces. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1955/6 to C.in C. W.A.)

VISCOUNT. Your 1507/6. Seaworthy, but requires dock-yard assistance to make good urgent defects. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1955 to C.in C. W.A.)

WITHERINGTON. Your 1507/6. Has defective Evaporator. Repair will take at least 24 hours. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1955/6 to C.in C. W.A.)

SCOTCH THISTLE. H.M. Drifter. Sailed Lowestoft 1300/5 due Burnham-on-Crouch 6/10, grounded off Frinton, abandoned near Whitaker L.V. 6/10, and seems to have refloated. 11 men, believed entire crew, reported in S.S. IPSWICH TRADER at Southend. Search being made for Vessel. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2254/6 to C.in C. Nore) (C.in C. Nore 1055/7 to F.O. Harwich) Ship seen by IPSWICH TRADER to sink 1 mile N.E. by N. of Whitaker L.V. (C.in C. Nore 1859/7 to Adty.).

THISTLE/BRAE. British, 6272 tons. Seized on 9/4 in dry dock at Trondheim. Reported by Transocean Message of 4/10 to have been confiscated by Hamburg Prize Court. (A.S. 398)

/ SALERNO .....

MOST SECRET

6.10.194[illegible].
Sunday

War Diary

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS (continued)

SALERNO. British, 1211 tons. Captured in Sanda Fiord off Stavanger with cargo of metal. Reported by Transocean Message of 4/10 to have been confiscated by Hamburg Prize Court. (D.S. 398).

SALMON POOL. British, 5751 tons. Seized without cargo in Sanda Fiord. Reported by Transocean Message of 4/10 to have been confiscated by Hamburg Prize Court (D.S. 398).

ST. DENIS. British, 2435 tons. Fired and sunk by her crew when Rotterdam was captured. Reported by Transocean Message of 4/10 to be salvable and repairable and to have been confiscated by Hamburg Prize Court. (D.S. 398).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping.
F.N. 100	Submarine H.44 included in. (C.in C. Rosyth 0941/6).
F.H. and F.S.	Additional escorts for Convoys 2 to 9. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1107/6 amended 2301/6).
O.B. 224.	9 hours late at R.V. Meet. Position. (C.in C. W.A. 1440/6).
H.X. 75 B.	Estimated position at 1800/6. (C.in C. W.A. 1429/6).
H.C. 45.	Protection (see North Atlantic).
H.X. 76.	To be met by SCIMITAR, etc. (C.in C. W.A. 1329/6).
W.N. 22.	CIMMEROS, ammunition transport, to join. (D.T.D. 1206/6).
O.A. 226.	Route. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0851/7).
O.A. 223.	Not met. My position. (HEARTSEASE, 1225/6). To disperse after passing 58° 30' N. 25° W. (C.in C. W.A. 1350/6).
H.X. 78.	ASSINIBOINE arrived from local escort. (S.O.I. Halifax, 0911/6).
O.A. 225.	List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0801/6) Escort etc. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0802/6 To disperse after passing 58° N., 25° W. (C.in C. W.A. 1340/6).
W.N. 21.	Code words "Rusty" (S) and "Clock" (F). (C. in C. W.A. 1029/6).
H.X. 77.	Route. (D.T.D., 1136/6) Sailing telegram (D.T.D. 1817/6).
O.B. 227.	Route. (D.T.D., 1137/6).
H.X. 75.	Destroyers to Clyde, trawlers to Belfast, corvettes to Liverpool with convoy. (C. in C. W.A. 1447/6)

/ S.C.7 .....

MOST SECRET

6.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping. (Continued)

S.C. 7. Date and position, escort SCARBOROUGH (D.T.D., 2342/6).

O.L. 6. Times of arrival. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1548/6).

BRITISH ENGINEER)
BRITISH SCOUT) Intend sailing 2000/6 for Hamble. Escort (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1154/6). Cancelled, weather. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1515/6).

ARISTOCRAT Intend sailing with W.N. 31. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1759/6).

Routes Admty. 1146/8/8 and 1648/7/9. Cancelling para 6 and substituting new route. (D.T.D. 1555/6).

WORCESTERSHIRE. N.F. 19. Position at 1100/7. (WORCESTERSHIRE, 0701/6).

W.S.3. KENYA to R.V. with. (C.in C. H.F. 0953/6).
Escort for W.S.3 Fast. (C.in C. W.A. 1923/6).

Zigzagging. Ref. A.M.S.I. 68 in view of present U/Boat tactics, considered no useful purpose served in convoys of under 11 knots carrying out a zig-zag. Amended instructions (D.T.D. 1933/6).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.10.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

De Gaulle Plans

Reply to Admty. 2218/5. De Gaulle appears confident use of R.N. will be available to him "on demand". Escort of troops to Point Noire Bay will be asked for an/is advisable, but have accepted no commitments for this. (F.O.I.C.S. 0245/6)

"Alloy" for Gibraltar

BARHAM, ESCAPADE, GREYHOUND, ECHO, FORTUNE to escort ETTRICK, KARANJA to Gibraltar at 1800/6. Route (C. in C., S.A., 0921N/6 amended 1755N/6) Sailed (S.O.I., Freetown, 2001N/6) W.O. has informed O.C. troops, Freetown, that Brigadier Morford should sail in BARHAM to facilitate communications. BARHAM and transports sailing 1800 today. Brig. Morford and Capt. Waller R.N., will sail in BARHAM unless orders to contrary. (C. in C., S.A., to Admty. 1237N/6)

Force A.

Headquarters closed. Communications to be addressed Freetown (Force A., Sierra Leone 1230/6) From Force A "Alloy" sailed 1800/6 (Comdr. Sierra Leone Area, to W.O., 0006/7)

AUSTRALIA

Admty. 1913/4. Intend to abandon patrol 2359/Z/7. (AUSTRALIA, 1362/6)

Destroyers

Your 2209/5 and my 1607/5. FORESTER was sailed Freetown 1100/3 to relieve FORESIGHT with 1st C.S. FORESIGHT will not now return in time to sail with BARHAM. Intend FORESIGHT shall sail with INGLEFIELD and ECLIPSE in accordance with your 0231/2 paragraph (E) (C. in C., S.A., 1405/6 to Admty.)

DORSETSHIRE Patrol

My 1427/29. My 1857/4 to Governor Gold Coast. DORSETSHIRE sails Freetown 0930/7 for Takoradi, thence to patrol to intercept Vichy French shipping possibly proceeding Gabon. (C. in C., S.A., 2149N/6)

French Ships

My 1601/5. Two more French merchant ships identified approaching Cape Spartel now eastbound. (F.O.C.N.A., 0813/6)
1 French M.V., 1 Elan 330-145 NEG 10, 8 kno (Aircraft 0715/6)

/FLEURET.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.10.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

FLEURET, French Destroyer

French Destroyer FLEURET approaching Straits westbound. (F.O.C.N.A., 0743/6) One destroyer160 Europa Point 12, course 270° speed 20 knots. (A/C via Gibraltar W/T, 0735/6) One destroyer bearing 168° distance 2 miles course 260°, position 208 (?Europa Point) 1. (A/C via Gib W/T, 0800.
Destroyer French Enemy speed is 30 knots (A/C 0815/6)
My 0743 (destroyer FLEURET approaching Straits) FLEURET passed east to west 0750 1160 French sloop M/S DELAGE passed west to east escorting 2 French merchant ships 1110 Spanish M/L JUPITER class passed east to west. (F.O.C.N.A. 1551/6)

North Atlantic

WRESTLER

To escort oiler ORANGELEAF to Gibraltar (F.O.C.N.A. 1036/6)

WISHART

Escorting NEURALIA, leaves position off Lisbon 1700 today (F.O.C.N.A. 1036/6)

Destroyer Shortage

Until return of 8 D.F., unable to maintain continuous extended patrol to eastwards of Gibraltar necessary to give Force H warning of enemy or French surface vessels. Maximum reconnaissance effort of available aircraft does not guarantee adequate warning over 24 hours. (F.O.C.N.A., 1210/6

A/C Patrols

Details. (F.O.C.N.A. 1744/6, 1850/6, 2115/6) Search for KINGSTON SAPPHIRE, etc., (200 Group., 1720/6)

Convoy, Lack of Protection

N.C.S.O., Lisbon reports about 24 ships sailing independently west 48 hours from Portugal to join H.G. 45 at Gibraltar. German agents spreading many threats. Requests all possible protection. Unable to provide any protection on this occasion or so long as part of 13th D.F. required for Force H. (F.O.C.N.A., 2310/6)

RENOWN

Has been at sea or at short notice in harbour for 48 out of 55 days. Defects to be made good and boilers cleaned. Propose at 12 hours notice for 48 hours from 0001/8 and at 6 hours for further 48 hours. (S.O.Force H., 1330/6) Approved as soon as AUSTRALIA arrives at Gibraltar (1st S.L. to Force H., 1704/7)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.10.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

DAPHNELLA — (Reported overdue, my 1705/5) Arrived Capetown (S.O.I. Capetown, 1005/B/6)

W/T Signals — Reply to C. in C., S.A., 1059N/4 regarding British Airways aircraft proceeding to and from West Africa. (Air Ministry Signals 2 Bristol 1207/6)

NEPTUNE — My 1217/4. Food quantities in British ship BELGRAVIA, now at Freetown, originally intended for Dakar. (C. in C., S.A., to Govr. Nigeria, 1231N/6)

BRECONSHIRE — My 2247/5. Fuel and water requirements on arrival Lobito. (C. in C., S.A., 1107N/6) Left 1600/6 for Capetown (S.O.I. Freetown, 1809/6)

A.P. 3. — Convoy A.P. 3. from Capetown and CANTON from Simonstown as escort sailed to R.V. at 1800 and thence in accordance with my 1420Z/2. (Capt i/c Simonstown, 1915/6)

Mediterranean

French Ships for Beirut — My 0812/4. French High Commissioner informs me that owing to late reply regarding safe conduct for 6 ships, their departures from Marseilles have been postponed for 5 days in each case. First 3 leave 8/10, second 3 on 11/10 (Consul General, Beirut, 0955/6 to C. in C., Med.) (C. in C., Med., 2126/6)

Ex-China Gunboats — Admty. 1901/4, re CRICKET and TERN. These two gunboats might indeed be very useful. (C. in C., Med., 1111/6)

PARTHIAN — Orders for patrol (Capt. S. 1. 1455/6)

GONDAR
BERILLO
S/M' sunk — R.A. Alexandria's 1636/30. Confirmed STUART's U-Boat was Italian S/M GONDAR. My 1259/2 HAVOCK with HASTY in company sighted a U-Boat on surface in position 32.22 N., 26.09 E., at 0425C/2 and engaged with gunfire. U/B dived and was hunted by HAVOCK and HASTY until 0615 when surfaced and crew surrendered. U/B scuttled herself C.O., 6 Officers and 40 Ratings picked up Name of S/M BERILLO (C. in C., Med., 0955/6)

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.10.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Enemy Tank Barges

Ganz and Co., Budapest, asked by Rome 1/10 to prepare plans with descriptions in Italian of flat-bottomed tank barges of 1,000 tons lates type. (D.S. 398)

East Indies

B.N. 6. Attacked

LEANDER, escorting B.N. 6. reports she was bombed at 0435/6 in 16.47 N., 40.55 E. No damage to her or convoy. (D.S. 398)

A.P.3.

Sailing telegram (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1530Z/6) Dates of passing Aden and arrival Suez, and ships composing. (C. in C., E.I. 1804Z/6) Sailed (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1915/6) My 1 13Z/5. Due to engine defect ULSTER PRINCE will be delayed sailing from Capetown As this ship carried ammunition only propose to omit her from Convoy A.P. 3½ and sailing her to Durban and Aden without escort for inclusion in Red Sea convoy. She cannot reach Suez without fuelling at Aden. Intend sailing CARNARVON CASTLE with CLAN MACARTHUR from Capetown 7/10 to arrive Durban a.m. and proceed in accordance with programme. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 0830Z/6) (C. in C., E.I., 1540Z/6)

NEPTUNE

Admty. 1649/5. Intentions of NEPTUNE, leaving Simonstown, a.m. /7 for search. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1211/6)

Ex-China Gunboats

Adty. 1901/4. No objection. State of COCKCHAFER and GNAT. Intend to maintain COCKCHAFER with 4 in guns for security duty in Shatt-el-Arab. (C. in C., E.I., 0748Z/6)

Shipping

Arrivals and departures (N.C.S.O., Calcutta 0825Z/6)

Convoy K.D.1.

Route, etc., (N.C.S.O. Kilindini 0850Z/6) Sailed for Durban 0835Z/6. Totals of Office and men and internees. (D.S.T.O. Mombasa, 0909Z/6)

Local Craft.....

MOST SECRET

6.10.1940
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Local Craft — Your 1128/16/8. No capacity for building local defence craft in British East African ports. 72 ft M.L's now under construction are allotted to following ports. (list) Your 0950/4. Asdic sets can be supplied when required. Request report on possibility of A/S training being arranged at Bombay or Singapore for local personnel. (Hd. of M. to C. in C., E.I., 1319/6)

LEANDER B.N. 6. — Again Bombed at 0435/6. No damage. (D.O.R. 7/10)

Bahrein M.E.W. Centre — Your 0312/25. Not intended to set up a Contraband Control Base in Persian Gulf immediately but only an Intelligence Centre staffed by M.E.W. at Bahrein. When started it will no doubt establish contact with C. in C., E.I., and S.N.O. Persian Gulf. Head of M. 1701/6 to C. in C., E.I.)

China

River Escorts — Your 1901/4. My intention was that TERN should relieve TARANTULA at Hong Kong and that CRICKET and TARANTULA should proceed to Singapore to join SCARAB and form division of mine sweepers. I doubt practicability of TERN proceeding beyond Hong Kong owing to lack of seaworthiness. In present conditions CRICKET and TARANTULA can be spared but should extensive hostile mining take place in Malayan Waters I should have to ask for more sweepers as local resources are exhausted and present number of sweepers would be insufficient. (C. in C., China, 0447Z/6 to Admty.) (See also Med. and E. Indies)

Japan — Admty. 1529/2. Proposals for shipping when hostilities become imminent. (C. in C., China, 0449Z/6)

America & West Indies

U.S. Destroyers — Reply to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1450/4 re names. (Hd. of M. 1320/6

ROXBURGH Ex FOOTE — U.S. destroyer, returning St. John's as excessive fuel consumption first 2 days showed destination could not be reached. (B.S. 3. 1646/6)

Australia

U.S. 6,7,8. — Request you arrange sailing dates for Convoys U.S. 6,7 and 8 and ocean escorts in collaboration with C. in C., E.I., (D.O.D. (F) to A.C.N.B., 1610/6)

MOST SECRET.

6.10.1940.
Sunday

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

JACOBUS FRITZEN. Reported at 1125/5 her position was 54° 22'N. 12° 05'E. and that 2 officers were overboard. (D.S. 398).

HERMONTHIS — At Callao, Peru. Hamburg enquired of Ostern and Co. Lima, 3/10, re transhipment of cargo with Danish S.S. INDIA. (D.S. 398).

FRANKFURT — At Talcahuano, Chile. Has discharged 1,000 tons sulphur and 19 tons lumber (D.S. 398).

MOST SECRET.

6.10.1940.
Sunday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

BRITISH GENERAL torpedoed — British, 6989 tons, tanker, ex Convoy O.A. 222, Torpedoed 51.42 N., 24.03 W., at 1830 (G.M.T.?) (BRITISH GENERAL, 1925/6) Tugs ENGLISHMAN and SUPERMAN to proceed in company to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 3137/6). Tugs sailed (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2240/6) Bound from Tyne to Abadan in ballast.

2nd attack 7/10. — SSSS 1200 G.M.T. BRITISH GENERAL torpedoed 0824 this morning in 51.42 N., 24.50 N. Require immediate assistance, sinking T.O.R. 1327/7. (Burnham-on-Sea Radio, received 1331/7).

MAGDALENA torpedoed 18/9. — British, 3118 tons, which was torpedoed 18/9, now presumed sunk. Feared no survivors. (D.S. 398).

KINGSTON SAPPHIRE (torpedoed 5/10) — 28 survivors landed Huelva by Spanish trawler at 0300/6. 3 missing (D.O.R. 7/10)

Submarines Reported.

1345. — Aircraft report 55.29 N., 07.14 W. at 1345. (C. in C. W.A. 1637/6) (H.Q., 15 Group, 1640/6).

1720. — Periscope sighted by HIGHLAND BRIGADE, 49. 39 N. 23.38 W. (Port Patrick Radio 1720/6).

1830. — 57. 47 N., 01.54 W. contact by ALYNBANK (See Submarines attacked)

America and West Indies.

N.A. Washington's 1213/5. VAN KINSBERGEN approx 200 miles north from our position at time of report states visibility poor. (C.in C. A. W.I. 1308/6).

MOST SECRET

6.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarine Reported.

Italian. 1 25 miles west of Cape Trafalgar A.M/5. Probably 1 eastward of Azores.

German. 1 in 49° 30' N. 11° 30' W. at 2028/5 may arrive Lorient night 7/8th.
Possibly 1 about 55°N. 11°- 14°W.
1 between 51°N. and 52°N. westward of 20° W.
1 between 52° 30' N. and 53° 30' N. westward of 21°W.
2 in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown but possibly near Rockall and about 55°N. or 56°N. westward of 15°W.
(D.D.I.C. 1330/6).

Submarines Attacked.

Italian U/B sunk. TIGRIS reports - attacked three Italian U-Boats SANTORRE SANTA-ROSA class escorted by 2 patrol vessels believed to be French sloop minesweeper ELAN class entering Matelier (corrupt group) 0700 sank one Italian U-Boat. (V.A.S. 2346/6).

GONDAR)
BERILLO) Italian S/M's sunk. (See Mediterranean).

1000 500-ton U-boat arrived Kors Fiord 1000/6, course 090°, dived during attack. Left patrol 2000/6, shortage of fuel. (Netherlands Submarine O.21, 2030/6).

Submarine contact in 57.47 N., 01.54 W. (ALYNBANK, 1600/6). Attacked Submarine in

1728 57.34 N. 01.29 W. (ALYNBANK, 1728/6).
Your 1728, report whether Submarine was actually sighted (C. in C. Rosyth, 1844.
No. Asdic firm contact. (ALYNBANK, 1945/6).
Your 1728. Is this considered same submarine as your 1600, observing positions are 18 miles apart, impossible for submarine to have travelled in the time. (C.in C. Rosyth 2118/6). Your 2118. Not considered that submarine attacked was same as that reported in my 1600. (ALYNBANK, 2230/6)

(14)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

KENYA left Scapa this evening to R.V. with and escort Convoy W.S. 3. fast as far as Freetown, where KENYA is to work up.

Convoys

In view of the shortage of escorts the East Coast and north about convoys are to be run on a 3 day cycle temporarily, viz a 9 knot ship convoy, a 7 knot ship convoy, and a blank day.

British Air Operations

On account of the weather, no operations by Bomber Command or Coastal Command were carried out last night.

Today R.A.F. attacked shipping at Le Havre and a 3000 ton merchant vessel 10 miles N.W. of Lister Light.

Enemy Air Activity

Increase in attacks on N.E. Coast of Scotland

An increased number of ships have been damaged lately by air attack off the north-east coast of Scotland. Air Ministry have asked Fighter Command to take any further measures that may be practicable to give security to convoys.

Ships Attacked

N.O.i/c Swansea reports today that SS LATIMER was bombed and set on fire at 1345/2 off the Blaskets. The vessel is not sunk and may be a danger to navigation. The Trawler LEEDS was attacked at 1425/3 inside the Blaskets, but was undamaged.

Trawler FRAMLINGHAM was slightly damaged by attack 18 miles south of the Fastnet at 1040/3.

Ports & Bases Attacked

A good many attempted attacks on the London dock area were made today; a fire was caused this afternoon at Surrey Commercial Docks, but no very serious damage was caused.

Bombs were dropped in Dover harbour and Town this morning and 3 barrage balloons were shot down in raids of which there were several today.

/VERNON.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

VERNON Instructionnal Dept. at Portsmouth was damaged by fire caused by an incendiary bomb about 2300/7.

Mining

Minelaying aircraft were active today off the N.E. Coast of England, Firth of Forth, Thames Estuary and Liverpool Bay.

A fresh moored minefield has been located to the eastward of the South Foreland. Three mines were swept today and 3 sweep wires parted by explosive cutter.

HAMBLEDON was mined about 5 miles east of Dover this evening. VESPER took her in tow for Sheerness.

A mine exploded 50 yards astern of H.S.L. 111 when proceeding at 38 knots in the Humber. The boat was damaged and rendered unserviceable.

Another mine was cut off the Manacles today.

The approaches to Rosyth were closed today at 2309 between 2° 52' W., and Oxcars Gate. owing to suspected minelaying. The port of Methil is open.

Operations Against Vichy French

C.S.1. in DEVONSHIRE and transports WESTERNLAND and PENNLAND with de Gaulle's force escorted by COMMANDANT DUBOC and COMMANDANT DOMINE arrived at Ambas Bay, Duala a.m. today. Disembarkation of troops into ~~with~~ small ships commenced p.m./7. and is expected to be completed p.m./8.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

It is reported that French merchant vessels are evading the blockade by creeping up the coast past Cape Spartel and then eastward in territorial waters until opposite Italy when they cross over and proceed inside Italian waters. F.O.C.N.A. reports th that these ships are all escorted through the Straits and consequently are allowed to proceed. Interference will, in his opinion, inevitably create an incident, and he suggests that some sort of Contraband Agreement be arranged with the French Govt.

AUSTRALIA left her patrol off the Azores at midnight 7/8 for Gibraltar.

South Atlantic

DORSETSHIRE left Freetown this morning for Takoradi, to remove 155 evacuees from SS TOUAREG and put them over the frontier of French Ivory Coast; thence to patrol as far east as 1° 10' N., 4° 30' E., to intercept Vichy French shipping possibly proceeding to Gabon.

Mediterranean

Blenheims attacked M.T. in camp near Sidi Barrani today.

Swordfish of F.A.A., Sunderlands and Glen Martins today repeated their search for enemy surface forces in the Ionian Sea.

East Indies

Troop Convoy B.N. 6. was bombed again for the third time at 0612/7 in the Central Red Sea. No damage has been reported.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals — At 0200/7 (D.C. 0219/7) At 1400/7. (D.C. 1403/7)

Burning Oil as Invasion Defence — Trial of New Method taking place in Greenock Area on 9/10. Request you send representative to witness and report. (D. of L.D. 1836/7 to Home Forces)

A.M. 1952/1. Folkestone visited by expert from Haslar Experimental Station who considers it impracticable to install this defence as previously proposed. A further visit will be paid to discuss another scheme (D. of L.D., 1849/7 to V.A.Dover)

Policy

1st TOWNS Flotilla — Your 0134/6. (Working up in Western Approaches) Concur. (D.S.D. 2003/7 to C. in C., W.A)

Atlantic Proposed new Anti-U-Boat S/M Patrol — It appears that U-Boats are working further and durther to Westward where attack by Surface Craft is difficult because of endurance. Suggest a submarine patrol be established between 20° and 25° West from 52 to 54° North or from 55° and 57° North. (C. in C., W.A., 2021/7 to V.A.S.)

Movements

WIDGEON PUFFIN — For patrol Q 25117 tonight. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1045/7)

ALYNBANK — Leave convoy H.X. 75 A 2359/7 if no attack is developing and return to Scapa. (F.O.C. Destroyer Flotillas H.F. 1054/7)

WOLVERINE SARDONYX — Admty. 1708/6 and my 1307/6, 1657/6. Intend to sail them from needles 1830/7 for Plymouth Route. E.T.A. 0700/8 (C. in C., Portsmouth 1217/7) Sailed (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1845/7)

KENYA — Requesting A/S air escort from 0600/8 for as long as possible. Position etc., (C. in C., W.A., 1307/7 to H.Q.C.C.)

/2nd Towns.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

2nd Towns Flotilla — Route to Plymouth (C. in C., W.A., 1327/7 to HAMILTON) Less HAMILTON, GEORGETOWN, ROXBURGH. E.T.A. Belfast 1800 G.M.T/8 (HOPEWELL 1641/7)

Northern Patrol — Trawler line occupied today (F.O.C.C.S. 1536/7)

VANSITTART — Proceed at 1500/8 to Lough Foyle, to arrive daylight 9/10, complete with oil and await orders. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1539/7)

CYCLAMEN — Asking if she may wait 24 hours for pom pom (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1543/7)

Dover — Patrols night 7/8 (V.A.Dover 1546/7)

ARK ROYAL ARGUS — In company. Only HIGHLANDER, HAVELOCK, HURRICANE escorting at present. Noon position. Speed adjusted for ARGUS to arrive Clyde 0645/8. Asking earliest time ship can be accepted at Liverpool. (C. in C., Rosyth 1054/7)

CAIRO — To sail when ready to Clyde for dispersing. (C. in C., W.A. 1947/7)

Operations

Operation LUCID — Prepare to carry out today. Zero hour 0240/8. (C. in C., Nore, 0740/7 to D. 16, D. 21, etc.) (Air Ministry 1005/7 to Air Commands)

Carry out LUCID. (D.O.D. H. 1015/7 to C. in C., Nore) (C. in C., Nore 1022/7 to D.16 D. 21, etc.)

Act as in 2240/2. Time of passing North Goodwin L.V. to be adjusted as necessary. Code word ALPHA. (C. in C., Nore, 1050/7 to D. 16.)

Following are times of passing Garrison Point today. (C. in C., Nore, 1052/7 to D. 21 etc.)

Forces indicated will pass Nore L.V. as follows, proceeding by Edinburgh Channel and through Downs. (C. in C., Nore, 1120/7 to H.Q.F.C.)

/My 1007/4.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation LUCID (Contd.)

My 1007/4. Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. (D.D.I.C. 1231/7 to C. in C., Nore, Portsmouth, and V.A.Dover)

Following is composition of Forces (C. in C. Nore, 1540/7 to Admty.)

Request Fighter Protection for Forces A and B from daylight 8th until arrival at Sheerness. Anticipated positions of Forces at 0630/8. Positions liable to considerable amendment and H.Q.F.C. will be kept informed. Code Word for both Forces ALPHA. (C. in C., Nore, 1700/7 to H.Q.F.C.)

Route for Force A and return in view of Mines cut near No 1 Buoy. (C. in C., Nore 2112/7 to D. 21)

Operation LUCID postponed. (V.A.Dover 2227/7 to Force B and Adty.) Return to Harwich at Daylight (C. in C., Nore, 2300/7 to D. 21)

Continue LUCID if you consider it practicable and weather is suitable. (1st S.L. 2320/7 to D. 21, EGLINGTON, HAMBLEDON D. 16 etc.,

LADY BRASSEY and MURIA sailed to assistance of HAMBLEDON at 2326 (V.A.Dover 2350/7 to Adty.)

EGLINTON is to join Force B in place of GARTH and is to escort MYTILUS and OAKFIELD to R.V. (C. in C., Nore, 0926/7)

OAKFIELD to anchor at Great Nore, (C. in C., Nore, 0848/8)

EREBUS

Your 1920/6. Propose EREBUS bombard Calais or the Gris Nez Batteries on first convenient night after completion or postponement of LUCID. Batteries preferred but it is considered that neither bombardment should be carried out without efficient ait spotting. (C. in C., Nore, 1002/7 to Adty.)

Operation MEDIUM

V.A.S. 2228/5. URSULA detailed and arrived Portsmouth 1000/7. C.O. of URSULA being sent overland to Devonport p.m. today. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1023/7 to Adty.) Your 1921/5. (i) Latest information will be signalled separately. (iii) Air Ministry are arranging request visit. (iv) Confirmed But this should not prejudice the engagement of most suitable Targets, (V.C.N.S. 1308/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

M/PD 09087/40 of 4/10 para 5, and your 2307/6. Request you arrange as many M.T.Bs as possible to operate in conjunction with motor gunboats from Fowey, the Flotilla to assemble at Portland by 1200/9. In addition request you provide cruisers and destroyers for an eastern covering force. Request names. Operation orders are being sent. (C. in C., W.A., 1527/7 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Your 1023/7. After consulting with C.O. have decided not to include URSULA in Operation. Request Area W. 2. may be kept clear of submarines during Operation. (C. in C., W.A. 2333/7 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

As it is now understood that M.T.B's have unsuitable armament for engaging E-Boats request you cancel my 1527/7 (C. in C., W.A. 1207/8 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Patrol U

2 Destroyers from Humber to arry out tonight (C. in C., Nore, 1215/7 to INTREPID)

Western Channel Patrol

Patrol BY (C. in C., W.A., 1629/7 to N.O.I.C Dartmouth)

Iceland

My 1931/4. It is desired to send some troops to Iceland in ARGUS. Request you report maximum number of Officers and other Ranks that could be accommodated. (A.C.N.S. H. 2028/7 to ARGUS)

Proposed withdrawal of Walrus A/S Squadron
See British Air Activity.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines.

O. 21. Left Patrol 2000/6 and is following Route in my 1121/6. (Capt S. 9. 0259/7) Your 2030/6. Your should take Route given in my 1121/6. (Capt. S. 9. 0303/7 to O.21) Reports 500 ton U-Boat entered Kors Fiord 1000/6. (V.A.S. 1001/7 to C. in C., H.F.)

H. 49 Reports A/S trawlers sweeping STURGEONS Swept Channel daily to following regular time table.
5. H. 49 also reports single aircraft carried out A/S patrol on 3rd 4th and 5th September. On 30th/9 8 minesweepers swept searched Channel. At 2112/1 fired 4 torpedoes at convoy of 6 Merchant ships northbound in 53° 10' N., 04° 32' E., range of firing approx. 4800 yards on 13 degree track. One loud explosion seven minutes after last torpedo was fired. Result not observed. (V.A.S. 1251/7)

H. 34 Will be exercising in the Flow a.m. and p.m. 8th. (A.C.O.S. 1521/7)

H. 43 Exercising in Plymouth S/M Area. (C. in C,n W.A. 1615/7 to Adty.)

PORPOISE Capt. S. 2's 1447/5. Owing to low speed of advance estimate arrive Bishops Rock 0730/8 (PORPOISE 1617/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

Positions For following 24 hours at 0700/8. (V.A.S. 1719/7 and 2339/7)

O. 22. Proceed into Patrol Zone on arrival. (Capt S. 9. 1017/7 to O.22)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Bomber Command — Summary of operations 5/10. (H.Q.B.C., THI 0505/7) Intelligence Summary No 468, includes Summary of Operations night 6/6. (H.Q.B.C., THI 1245/7)

Air Searches — For 8/10. (C. in C., Rosyth 1854/7)

Coastal Command — Operations for night 7/8, (H.Q.C.C. 1448/7)

Iceland — Withdrawal of Walrus Squadron will deprive me of all air R.C. at time when such R.C. is becoming increasingly necessary. If withdrawal essential urgently request replacement by some alternative type which can reconnoitre deeply including Jan Mayen I and Greenland. (Alabaster Reykjavik 2329/6)

North East Coast Air Protection of Convoys — A. 120. Increased number of ships damaged by air attack off north east coast of Scotland. Great importance attached to adequate air protection for these convoys. Appreciated that when main battle is in south and south east full protection for east coast convoys cannot be given but request that any further practicable measures to give convoys security from air attack be taken. (Air Min 2325/7 1100/8 to F.C.)

Convoy "Booty" — Convoy "Booty" (F.S. Odd) Shadowed by one aircraft. My position 51° 31' N., 1° 3'E (VEGA 1502/7)

SUSSEX (Damaged 18/9) — Condition (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1830/7)

Orkneys — One hostile aircraft engaged between 1630-1700 (A.C.O.S. 2103/7)

Enemy Air Activity

SS LATIMER Bombed 2/10 — Trawler LEEDS reports SS LATIMER on fire at 1345/2 as result of bombing attack 10 miles off Blaskets. Crewv saved by KILGERVAN CASTLE landed Valencia six killed including engineer. Vessel not sunk may be danger to navigation. Trawler LEEDS attacked by Heinkel Bomber inside Blaskets at 1425/3. No damage. (N.O.i/c Swansea 1240/7)

/HEINKEL.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Heinkel in Sea has Special W/T

Heinschel aircraft is believed down in sea between Folkestone and Dungeness at 1220/7 making W/T signals.
It is thought this aircraft is fitted with special W/T apparatus specimen of which is urgently required. (D.C. 1248/7 to V.A. Dover)

Dover Attacked

Enemy aircraft dropped two bombs in Dover harbour and one in the town at 0935 and one bomb to Northward of Grand Shaft Barracks at 1013/7.
Six civilians wounded. At 1013 six M.E's shot down two barrage balloons and at 1350 four M.E's shot down one barrage balloon. (V.A.Dover, 1909/7)

London Dock Area

1030 2 H.E. dropped: one in Bow Creek, one to northward which struck factory and started fire. 1700, 9 H.E. dropped Surrey Commercial Docks and vicinity. Some non naval casualties. No serious damage. Incendiary started fire at Bellamys Wharf on South Shore near Surrey Docks fire now presumed to be extinguished. (F.O.i/c London. 1935/7)

Mining

H.S.L. 111 Damaged

Mine exploded by H.S.L. 111 in Humber 115° 5 cables from No 6 buoy. Narrow column of water 50 yards astern of boat, speed of boat 38 knots, boat damaged and unserviceable. (F.O. Humber, 1309/7)

Manacles

Mine cut and sunk by rifle fire 50° 0' 12"N 5° 3' 0" W., (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1525/7)

Experimental

Experimental day and night sweeping to be carried out by 3 ships of 5th M/S F ahead of E.N. Convoy bearing Methil 0500/9 while between May Island and Duncansby Head. Details. (C. in C., Rosyth 1823/7)

Danlayers

30th M.S.F. to sail to Rosyth as convenient to operate under C. in C., Rosyth. (D.M.S. 1831/7)

Rosyth

Approaches are closed between 02° 52' W., and Oxcars Gate due to suspected minelaying. Port of Methil is open (C. in C., Rosyth, 2309/7)

/Falmouth.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Falmouth — Owing to suspected minelaying destroyers are not to enter harbour until further orders. (C. in C., W.A., 2327/7)

Regret your escort is delayed owing to heavy commitments and damage sustained by Destroyers. 4 Destroyers will be sent at first opportunity (C. in C., W.A., 1931/7 to RAML)

HAMBLEDON (Mined near Dover) 7/10 — LADY BRASSEY and MURIA sailed to assistance of HAMBLEDON at 2326 (V.A.Dover 2350/7 to Adty.)

ADVENTURE Practice Lay — Admty. Letter 1826/40 of 12/9 and A.L. 2068/40 of 30/9. Propose embark Mines for practice lay at port Z.A. on 17/10 and lay a proportion on 21/10, disembarking mines not actually laid on 22/10. (ADVENTURE 1211/7 to D.A.S., Bath)

Operation B. 3. 40 — PLOVER does not undock till 1800/7 and will load a.m./8. Intend TEVIOT BANK and PLOVER to sail from Spurn Point 1700/8 and R.V. with minesweeper at 20 D buoy at 0615/9, proceeding thence through gap B to initial position and returning same route. Laying will begin 1400/9. (S.O. Minelayers, Immingham 0812/7 and 0910/8)

Two Humber destroyers are to be detailed as escort. Report names. (C. in C., Nore, 1645/7 to INTREPID)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Shetlands	Unst reports one small fast vessel bearing 328° 15 miles steering 098° at 24 knots at 0607. (Scapa W/T 0617/7 to SNAPPER) Bearing 335° 11 miles, steering 162° at 12 knots at 0635 (Scapa Base Ship W/T 0647/7 to SNAPPER)
Smoke Screen off Boulogne	Smoke screen reported off Boulogne Harbour at 1600/7. It has now disappeared. One aircraft 53 Sqdn. to investigate any unusual surface activity. (A.H.Q. Chatham 1640/7 to Adty.)
M/V's from Boulogne	A Southerly movement of Enemy M/V's from Boulogne may be expected through your Area tonight. (Capt. S. 5. 1850/7 to UPRIGHT)
Helder, Dordrecht, Enkhuisen	M/V's and Barges seen on 6/10 (H.Q.B.C. 0505/7)
Ship with Red Cross Markings off Hook	At 0928/7 in 51° 55' N., 3° 38' E., One ship with Red Cross on upper deck and on port side, heading S.E. (H.Q.B.C. 1245/7)

MOST SECRET

7.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

MOUNT TAYGETUS. Received 0657. Tugs not arrived. Ship drifting in position 120° Helwick L.V. 5 miles. Will you inquire what is happening as to tugs. (Burnham-on-Sea Radio 0803/7 to Adty.)

WESTERN COAST. In collision with French Ship VAILLANT at 0530/7 in Methil Roads, both ships at anchor. Propose carrying out local survey. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1114/7 to Adty.). Concur. (A.S. Rosyth 1620/7 to N.O.I.C. Methil).

HELTOPOLIS. Delayed by damage to bulwarks by a trawler when leaving harbour to-day. Estimated time of repair 6 days. (N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1428/7 to R.A.N.A.S.)

NIGHT HAWK)
ROYAL DAFFODIL) H.M. Trawler NIGHT HAWK collided with ROYAL DAFFODIL while latter ship at anchor. Slight damge to both ships above water. (N.O.I.C. Larne 2140/7 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

7.10.40.
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys.

Shipping

O.A. 225 — Position. (A.C.O.S. 0709/7) Escort SHIKARI, CLARKIA, PERIWINKLE (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1150/7).

O.A. 226. — Route. N.C.S.O. Methil 0851/7)

H.X. 75. — Position. (A.C.O.S. 0758/7).

S.C.6. — 38 Ships. Meet. (C.in C. W.A. to HASTINGS, etc. 1240/7).

H.X. 75 A. — ALYNBANK to leave at 2359/7 if no attack developing. (F.O.(D) H.F. 1054/7).

O.L.7. — DUNEDIN STAR to join. (C.in C. W.A. 1515/7) Route. (D.T.D.1651/7).

F.N. and F.S. — Cancelling his 1107/6 and 2301/6, re escorts for (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1636/7)

W.N. 21 S. — Escort BERKSHIRE, WOLVES (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1015/7).

O.A. 228. — Route. (D.T.D. 1219/7).

W.S.3. — Escort DOUGLAS, ST. LAURENT sailed 1510/7 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1652/7) Clyde section escort ACTIVE, OTTAWA sailed (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1715/7).

0944. — Route. (D.T.D. 1440/7).

F.S.4. — Will leave Methil 0030/8. Close escort BLACK SWAN, WOOLSTON (C.in C. Rosyth 1139/7).

C.W.14. — Intend to sail from Southend 1245/9. Escort FERNIE, BERKELEY, KINGSTON OLIVINE, GREENFLY, TOURMALINE, ACACIA, DEODAR, ASH, CHESTNUT, WALNUT etc. (C.in C. Nore 2156/7)

O.A. Convoys, Abolition. — Your 1131/5. Yes. Reference should have been to H.N. and W.N. convoys in my 1553/4. (C.in C. W.A. to C.in C. Rosyth, 2040/7).

/DINAS .....

MOST SECRET

7.10.40.
Monday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping (Continued)

DINAS — Finnish, intercepted, sent Reykjavik (F.O.C.N.P. 1457/7).

W.N., E.N., F.N., F.S., Cycle. — My 1906/4. In view of shortage of escorts, now proposed W.N., E.N., F.N., and F.S. convoys should run on 3-day cycle as follows - 9-knot ship convoy, 7-knot ship convoy, and a blank day. This programme temporary pending availability of additional escort vessels. (D.T.D.1850/7)

Minesweeping. — Admty. 2135/30. 3 ships of 5th M.S.F. will carry out experimental day and night sweeping ahead of E.N. Convoy leaving Methil 0500/9, between May Island and Duncansby Head. Instructions. (C.in C. Rosyth 1823/7)

Zigzagging. — Comments on Admty. 1933/6. (C.in C. W.A. 2020/7, 2031/7).

EASTERN PRINCE — My 1930/6. Speed 15 knots. (WHITEHALL, 0225/7). Request fighter cover to North Channel. Position. Proceeding to Liverpool. (C.in C. W.A. 0409/7).

Troop Convoys

N.S.3. — Final composition (D.of S.T. 2046/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.10.40.
Monday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Libreville. CORNWALL reports air reconnaissance 6/10 one sloop one M.V. in harbour. Not possible to verify presence of submarines owing haze and distance. Aircraft not seen. No outlying patrol vessel. (C.S.I. 0846 A/7).

Arrival at Duala. Arrived Ambas Bay. Landing of troops delayed until arrival of De Gaulle expected 1600/7. Retaining CORNWALL vide your 1311/5. (F.O.I.C. to C.in C. S.A. 1204/7).
My 1204. Have seen De Gaulle. Disembarkation into small ships commenced, expected complete p.m./8, all troops arriving Duala by a.m./9. Your 1311. Escort now requested for 400 French marines in WESTERNLAND to Point Noire. Propose sending CORNWALL and 2 destroyers p.m./8 and remaining at Manoka in DEVONSHIRE until arrival M.T. transport (C.S.I. 1415 A/7)
My 0245/6 confirmed. No further action contemplated against Libreville except by free French planes. (C.S.I to Admty., 1421/7).
My 1131/5. Transports arrived Ambas Bay. Intend WESTERNLAND shall be escorted to Point Noire Bay as proposed. (C.in C. S.A. to Admty. 1815/7).

Destroyers to Return Your 1415/7 and C.in C. S.A. 1815/7. Destroyers are to return to Gibraltar as soon as possible. Risk of submarine attack on passage of WESTERNLAND to Point Noire must be accepted. (1 S.L. to C.S.I, 2309/7).

M.T. Convoy. Convoy M.T. position. Expect arrive Outer Bar buoy Cameroon River 1000/10. At ?0430/4, TURCOMAN detached to proceed independently direct to Lagos. Fuel remaining in DELHI and DRAGON. (DELHI, 2217/7).

Food Supplies. Your 1231/6. Supplies would be of greatest assistance and any not required Duala could probably be absorbed by other ports of B.E.F. where there is shortage. (Govr., Nigeria, to C.in C. S.A. 1931/7).

French Movements. Gibraltar 1900/7. French trawler SERGENT GOUARNE escorting LOUIS CHARLES SCHIAFFINO west to east. (S.O.I. Gib. 2215/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.10.40.
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Shipping

Request comments on telegram 462 of 5/10 from Gascoigne, Tangier. What steps are being taken to bring in these ships? (1 S.L. to F.O.C. N.A. 0030/7).

Your 0030/7. Ships are all escorted through Straits and are allowed to proceed in accordance with A.M. 2030/11/8. Escorting ships frequently return to westward after taking convoy some distance into Mediterranean. Full use is made of Spanish territorial waters. Probable ships leave territorial waters at some point to eastward, but nothing to prevent them continuing to Oran or Algiers within 3 miles of coast and they will probably do this if watched. Best solution some sort of contraband agreement with French Govt. as arranged with ordinary neutrals. (F.O.C.N.A. 1214/7).

Suspicious Ship.

My 1830/28. Some informant reports ship is exactly as stated except flag may not have been changed to British but ship may have been chartered by British. One Italian submarine passed Straits Eastbound 28/9. 2 Italian submarines passaged westbound 30/9. (N.A. Madrid 1301/7).

Spain and U/Boats.

My 1301/7th, same informant. Between 8/10 and 15/10, a cargo of fuel for German submarines will be loading approximate Laredo at night. Supplier is Prieto Lavin of Hargrave. Submarines to be supplied are those operating between Lamming Combe, Brest. German brigade (corrupt group) is liaison between Laredo and German Naval Authorities in France, (corrupt group) Patacatres registered at Bilbao is also used. Cannot assess. (N.A. Madrid, 1323/7).

Air Search.

Following from ARK ROYAL. Admty. 1836/2. Aircraft searched carried out p.m./4 and a.m./5. Nothing of importance sighted. 1157/7. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1714/7).
More detailed report (ARK ROYAL, 1925/7).

/Belgian Ship .....

MOST SECRET.

7.10.40.
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic (Continued)

Belgian Ship, Lisbon.

Your 1827/2, Ministry of Shipping and Belgian Economic Mission do not agree to general arrangement that all Belgian ships at Lisbon be delayed but would consider particular cases if need of evacuation seemed imminent. Belgians agree to repairs to RENE PAUL being effected Lisbon. PORTUGAL will be delayed pending new crew but most important that THYSVILLE and VAE VICTIS should be free to sail.
(D. of S.T. 1941/7, to N.C.S.O. Lisbon).

Possible Raider.

At 1330 G.M.T./30 in 003° 08'S 017° 18'W. WINDSOR CASTLE sighted neutral merchant ship (description). Course 330° 12 knots No vessel of this description known to be in this vicinity and ship may be raider homeward bound for German or German occupied port.
(D.D.I.C. 1652/7).

Force H Destroyers

F.O.C.N.A. 1740/1 and C.in C. H.F. 1005/2 Exchange of KEPPEL for HOTSPUR will reduce number of modern destroyers of 13 D.F. capable of operating with Force H from 5 to 4. Most desirable that a leader should be available to accommodate Capt. (D) and staff when 13 D.F. are taking part in operations with Force H.
(S.O. Force H, 2105/7 to Admty).

RENOWN

Your 2330/6, boiler cleaning, etc. Approved as soon as AUSTRALIA arrives at Gibraltar. (1 S.L. to S.O. Force H, 1704/7).
Rivets securing plating to armour torn away. Risk of bulge stripping in bad weather or high speed. Intend RENOWN remain at short notice until arrival of AUSTRALIA when temporary repairs will be effected by wood chocks. (S.O. Force H. 2141/7).

BARHAM.

Re exchange of ammunition. (D.T.S.D., 2047/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.10.1940.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

SELANDIA — Danish. Re conversion to hospital ship. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1305/7).

Suspicious Ship. — Oiler with grey funnel and upperwork resembling Italian TUSCANIA sighted 37° 06'S., 27° E., course 200°, speed 10 knots at 0930 G.M.T./7. (D.D.I.C. 0146/8 to C.in C. S.A. etc.)

Mediterranean.

Destroyers. — Admty. 1923/5. Concur another Capt.'D) not required. (C.in C. Med., 1023/7).

Turkey. Defaussing. — Your 2351/10/9. No objection to disclosing information to Turks or to their sending an officer to Alexandria for training. (S.D.G. to C.in C., Med. 1051/7).

NARVAL — French submarine. Has returned from first patrol under Free French flag. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1103/7).

Crete. — Defence of. (1st S.L. to C.in C. Med., 1742/7). See Mediterranean Vol.

Danube, Mining — Reply to C.in C. Med 2325/26/9. (Hd. of M. 1744/7) See Mediterranean Vol.

Operation M.B.6. — Begins p.m./8. Outline of intentions. (C.in C. Med., 1607/7).

Operation B.6. — Submarines to move clear of Fleet area, or if not possible to remain deep. (Capt. S.1, 1101/7).

Enemy Reports, Delay. — C. in C. Med. 1259/2. Enemy Fleet was observed by Glen Martin recco. at 0620 and by Sunderlands 1050. Appears reports although broadcast were not received by C.in C. Med. Reasons under investigation. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1126/7).

Evacuations. — Asking if ships of A.P.3 and W.S.3. can be used to evacuate families to South Africa. (Movements, M.E., to W.O. 1230/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies.

ULSTER PRINCE — My 1804/6. ULSTER PRINCE will proceed independently and unescorted to Aden for onward passage to Suez. (C.in C. E.I. 0413 Z/7, 0420 Z/7).
Will leave Capetown 0500/9 for Aden and not call at Durban.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1133 Z/7).

Local Defence. E. Africa. — Admty. 1319/6. Request number allocated and approx. date of delivery.
(C.in C. E.I. 0610 Z/7).

M. de Shompre. — In VICEROY OF INDIA, due Bombay 9/10. De Gaulle wishes to disembarkand return Far East. (A.C.N.S.(F) to F.O.C. R.I.N., 1957/7).

W.S.3. — Admty. (1957/2 and your 0606/4. Very undesirable that Fast Group should be held back after leaving Cape by having to wait for W.S.3 Slow. (D.O.D. (F) to C.in C.E.I., 2300/7).

A.P.3. S.W.2. — A.P.3., escorted CARTHAGE, and S.W.2, escorted SHROPSHIRE, to R.V. (position and date) where escort will be exchanged. Routes. (C.in C. E.I., 1050 Z/7).

My 1230/5. Add one destroyer (lent from Mediterranean) to A.P.3½. (C.in C. E.I. 1132 Z/7).

Colombo. — Re equipments and ammunition. (D.of L.D. to W.O., 1016/7).

Red Sea Force. — My 1124/2, para. 2. Delete CALEDON and YARRA. (C.in C. E.I. 1216 Z/7).

China.

Defence of Straits Settlements. — Your 0613/27. Chiefs of Staff consider difficulties not insuperable. Guns being made available from Colombo. Australia asked to provide personnel.(D.of L.D.to C.in C. China, 1414/7).

Burma Road. — Re-opening to be announced to-morrow. Possible this may cause situation re Japan to deteriorate. (A.C.N.S.(F) to C.in C. China. 2303/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.10.40.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies.

PRINCE ROBERT. To comply with C. in C. A.W.I's 1302/6. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0955/7).

HAKOZAKI MARU. Arrived Bermuda 7/10. Being held. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1602/7).

Convoys, routeing. My 1141/5. Ships in convoy bound for Port Talbot and ports to the westward are to proceed to Milford Haven for onward routeing and not to Barry Roads (D.T.D. 1130/7 to C.O.A.C. Halifax O.C.).

1. Ships are not be routed via Belle Isle Straits after 31/10 sailings from U.K. West Coast.
2. Adty. 1939/8/12/39 remains in force. Masters should be given discretion to depart from ocean route ordered to avoid weather delay or damage (D.T.D.1253/7).

Zigzagging. Your 1656/3. Instructions for convoy procedure will be issued shortly based on character of recent attacks, (D.T.D.1602/7)

Australia.

MAURETANIA Arrived Fremantle 6/10. (A.C.N.B. 0632 Z/7)

AQUITANIA Arrived Sydney 0147 Z/6. (A.C.N.B. 0255 Z/7)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

CORDELIA. Left for Russia in ballast. (Macrae, Galatz, 1016/7).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TUSCANIA Oiler resembling her sighted 37.06 S., 27° E., course 200°, speed 10 knots, at 0930 G.M.T./7. (D.D.I.C. 0146/8).

MOST SECRET.

7.10.40.
Monday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1206. D.F. unknown enemy unit, probable U-boat, 55° to 55° 30'N., 22° to 25° W., unreliable fix. (C.in C. W.A. 1301/7).

1000/6. Netherlands submarine O.21 reports 500-ton U/B entered Koos Fiord 1000/6. Dived before completion of O.21's attack. (V.A.S. 1001/7) Capt. S. 9. 1017/7).

1600. 49.42'N., 04.50' W. Send available destroyers to attack (C.in C. W.A. 1617/7) Report was from aircraft, not certain that it was a submarine (C.in C. W.A.1633/7).

1910. Periscope reported 5 miles S.E. Mousa Island, Shetlands, steering N.N.E. (A.C.O.S. 2231/7).

2213. 59.06 N., 1.02 W., periscope reported (D.S. 399).

North Atlantic.

28/9, 30/9. One Italian submarine passed Straits eastbound 28/9. 2 Italian submarines passed westbound 30/9. Unable to assess reliability. (N.A. Madrid, 1301/7).

Estimated U/B dispositions

Italian. 2 arrived Gironde A.M. 5th. No further news of those at sea.

German. 1 probably arrives Lorient to-night.
1 in 51° 42' N. 24° 03' W. at 1930/6, and
1 about 100 miles to southward
1 in about 55° 30' N. 22° - 25° W. at 1206/7
1 more in N.W. Approaches, whereabouts unknown.
1 may be patrolling south of 56° N. within 100 miles of Bloody Foreland.
(D.D.I.C. 1240/7).

MOST SECRET

(15)

8.10.40.
Tuesday..

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Seven two-gun salvoes were fired from Cape Gris Nez battery at EGLINGTON and vessels in company this morning near South Goodwin Lt. V. The final salvo straddled the Light vessel. No damage or casualties caused.

There were strong indications of enemy activity a few miles east of the Lizard, probably E.boats, later this evening. KASHMIR and JAGUAR investigated.

The 2nd Town Flotilla arrived at Belfast this evening, less the three destroyers damaged or defective.

British Air Activity.

Ports from Zeebrugge to Lorient were successfully attacked last night, the heaviest concentrations being at Calais and Boulogne. The gun emplacements at Cap Gris Nez were also attacked. One Whitley bombed the Naval Docks at Wilhelmshaven.

R.A.F. this afternoon attacked 2 Flakships off the coast of Denmark; one ship is thought to have been damaged.
A Hudson on routine patrol bombed unsuccessfully an enemy vessel 21 miles North of Maas Light. After the attack, the enemy vessel showed two red crosses forward of the funnel.

Enemy Air Activity.

BELLONA II proceeding independently from Hull to Reykjavik was bombed and set on fire this evening and went aground near Stonehaven. 11 of her crew of 28 were killed.
S.S. ORONSAY carrying troops, in Convoy W.S.3 was attacked and damaged this morning in the N.W. Approaches.
H.M.T. BURKE was severely damaged during a second raid on Dover this morning.
At 1943/8 an unknown ship signalled that she was being bombed about 140 miles N.W. of Bloody Foreland.

/Considerable damage ...

MOST SECRET

8.10.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity (Continued).

Considerable damage was done to the quay-side at West India Docks by a delay action bomb dropped at 0530/8 which exploded at 1015/8.
Tower Bridge is out of action for road traffic for 3 or 4 days as the result of bombing this morning. The bridge is open.
Lee-on-Solent R.A.N.A.S. aerodrome was bombed this evening, but negligible damage was caused. There is an U.X.B. on the aerodrome.
Buildings at Ford R.N.A.Station were slightly damaged by air raid at dusk to-day.

Mining.

Mines were laid off Lorient and in the Maas Estuary last night by R.A.F. This evening, 3 mines were laid in the entrance to the Ems River.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected in the Thames Estuary, Firth of Forth, off Flamborough Head, Newcastle area and Merseyside.
Falmouth is closed until a swept channel has been established.
Rosyth approaches were opened about noon today.
Humber was closed at 2341 today owing to minelaying by aircraft.

S.S. ACTUOSITY (420 tons) in Convoy F.S. 97 sank in 5 minutes at 0400/3 after striking a submerged object about 15 miles E. by N. of Cromer. There was no pronounced impact and no explosion, but a strong smell of gas.
LOCUST (gunboat) was damaged and her engines put out of action by a mine which exploded immediately astern of her p.m. today in the Thames Estuary.

Operations against Vichy French.

WESTERNLAND with 400 French troops, escorted by CORNWALL sailed from Duala for Point Noire p.m. today.
PENNLAND completed disembarking her troops at Duala and sailed for Freetown p.m.today.

MOST SECRET

8.10.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

A tanker resembling the Italian TUSCANIA was sighted yesterday morning in approx. 37° S. 27°E. steering 200°. NEPTUNE on her way to search Kerguelen Island, has been told to try to intercept.

Mediterranean.

Operation M.B.6. The whole fleet left Alexandria p.m. today for this operation.

East Indies.

Blenheims today successfully attacked Assab.

An aircraft dropped bombs on Maala water front inner harbour today, causing casualties but no damage.

China.

Announcement of the re-opening of the Burma road on 18/10 was made today. Orders were sent to C.in C. China to withdraw from Wei Hai Wei personnel and as far as possible stores and yardcraft.

It is reported that preliminary steps have been taken for the evacuation of American citizens - about 17000 all told - from Japan, China, Hong-Kong, Indo-China, Manchuria, leased territory of Kwantug, Korea and Formosa.

MOST SECRET.

8.10.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals. At 0200/8. (D.C. 0201/8) At 1400/8 (D.C. 1429/8).

Portsmouth. A/A Gun Defences. Brigadier 35th A/A Brigade informs me that he has received prior notification that four of the eleven 3" case 1 guns are to be surrendered shortly. Until these guns were mounted enemy planes continually flew round the Forts and Eastern entrance with impunity and laid mines at leisure. After these guns had shot down three planes the enemy ceased this irritating practice to the great advantage of the port.
Realise that our potential in A.A. guns must be deployed where most required and I bring to notice the very great value these guns have been here so as to assist in balancing conflicting claims. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1203/8 to Adty.)

Policy

ARGUS. Future employment of ARGUS is under consideration. She is available for D.L.T. and it is proposed she should be used for this purpose at Scapa, unless you consider present arrangement with FURIOUS preferable. (5th S.L. 1651/8 to C.in C. H.F.)

Atlantic. New Anti-U-Boat Patrol. 815 Your 2021/7. Subject to approval of C.in C. H.F. CLYDE can be made available. Proposed she leave Dundee 12/10 escorted as far as Cape Wrath and thence proceed submerged by day to 61°. N. 10° W. Thence on surface to 61°N. 22° W. thence carry out anti-U-boat patrol between 55°N. and 57° N. and 20° W. and 25° W. The above route is suggested after consultation with Admiralty in order to keep Clyde clear of own Forces. On completion of 14 days patrol propose CLYDE proceeds on surface to 52° N. 15° W. thence submerged by day to Falmouth for onward escort to Holy Loch or Plymouth depending on refit situation.
(V.A.S. 2127/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET

8.10.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements.

KENYA. Your 1307/7 and 1529/7. Regret no aircraft of 18 Group available for this purpose. (H.Q.C.C. 0050/8 to C.in C.W.A.)

LONDONDERRY. Expect arrive 20 C. Buoy 2100. (LONDONDERRY 0951/8 to C.in C. Rosyth).

CYCLAMEN. My 1543/7. Gun has arrived. Mounting will be completed P.M./9. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1034/8 to C.in C. Rosyth). If 2-pounder Pom-Pom has arrived it should be fitted before CYCLAMEN sails. Otherwise she should be sailed as by my 1541/5/9. (D.O.D. H. 1815/8 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen).

Dover. Patrols for Night 8/9. (V.A. Dover 1516/8)

Northern Patrol. Trawler line to-day. (F.O.C.S. 1536/8).

COLUMBINE When ready for sea, should be sailed for Tobermory to work up, after which she should join W.A. Escort Force. (D.O.D. H. 1601/8 to A.S.C.B.S.)

Western Channel. Night report (C.in C. W.A.1715/8 and 2015/8).

Nore Command. Movements. (C.in C. Nore 1730/8 to VEGA). M.T.B's available Night 8/9. (C.in C. Nore 1843/8).

HOOD Can be taken in hand at Tail of the Bank about middle October. Time required will be about 3 weeks. If workmen should be accommodated on board, repairs could be expedited. Final decision to postpone or begin work will be made when REPULSE ready for service. (D.O.D. H. 1830/8 to C.in C. H.F.).

Rosyth Area. Movements for Night 8/9. (C.in C. Rosyth 1840/8).

Orkneys. State of A/S Trawlers. (A.C.O.S.1930/8).

Second TOWN Flotilla Arrived, less HAMILTON, GEORGETOWN, ROXBOROUGH. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2144/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET

8.10.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation LUCID

A/M. 2320. Consider operation not practicable tonight Monday 7th. (S.O. Force B. 0012/8 to Adty.).

Your 2320/7. Wind unsuitable. Returning to harbour (Capt. D. 21 0020/8 to Adty.).

Operation postponed. Wind conditions unsuitable (D.O.D.H. 0116/8).

Send M.T.B's of Force B to join MYTILUS broken down, and EGLINGTON and M.L's to OAKFIELD. Proceed with Sweepers. (C.in C. Nore 0310/8 to HAMBLEDON).

All arrangements to be made for carrying out LUCID tonight 8/9. (A.C.N.S.H.0446/8 to C.in C. Nore).

Your 0446. Area QZX.216 and vicinity are well mined. Am asking Dover to clear a passage before tonight. Request Zero Time. (C.in C. Nore 0716/8 to Adty.).

Your 0716. Clear passage cannot be guaranteed by tonight. Minefield has anti-sweeping devices and probably delay action Mines. In good visibility as today it is within sight and range of Gris Nez Batteries. (V.A. Dover 0814/8 to C.in C. Nore).

Prepare to carry out LUCID tonight 8/9. Zero Time 0340/9. Sailing programme as in my 1052/7 with one hour added to all times. Force C adjust movements accordingly. (C.in C. Nore 0814/8 to D.16, D.21 etc.).

MALCOLM to join Force B and embark Capt.Agar. VETERAN to join Force C as S.O. D.16 requested to turn over orders to VETERAN. (C.in C. Nore 1020/8 to D.16).

Appendix One. Appendix Two. (D.D.I.C.1228/8).

Operation LUCID is postponed. 4 days notice will be given before it is intended to carry it out. Operation orders should be retained. (V.C.N.S. 1233/8 to C.in C. Nore).

Cancel my 0814/8. Operation is cancelled. (C.in C. Nore 1220/8 to D.16, D.21, etc.).

/Operation MEDIUM .....

MOST SECRET

8.10.40.
Tuesday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Continued)

Operation MEDIUM

Your 1527/7. I made offer of M.T.B's because I thought it possible that the operation might be entirely dependent on their presence and therefore wished to help as far as possible. But the boats here are the two training boats 100 and 102, which by Admiralty order are not operational as their training function is important, and 2 which is earmarked for special Admiralty service. If your strength in motor gun boats is not sufficient I will ask for Admiralty instructions regarding the three Portsmouth M.T.B's.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1107/8 to C.in C. W.A.)

Your 1527/7. CARDIFF, VANOC, VOLUNTEER.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1151/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

As it is now understood that M.T.B's have unsuitable armament for engaging E-Boats, request you cancel my 1527/7. (C.in C. W.A. 1207/8 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Your 1107/8. Cancel my 1207/8. M.T.B's are not now required. (C.in C. W.A. 1611/8 and 1711/8 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Zero hour for Naval bombardment is 0330/10. Request Air attack may be concentrated on Port and Docks so that fires started may be in Naval target area. Request Flares be dropped on line 120° to 300° S.W. of Cape La Hague from Zero minus 30 minutes till Zero minus 10 minutes. (C.in C. W.A. 1922/8 to H.Q.B.C.) Air Ministry request orders be given to Naval Units for quick identification of our own Fighter aircraft to avoid danger to close Fighter Escort from Ships A/A armament. (Ad. of M. 2350/9 to C.in C. W.A.).

EREBUS.

Propose postponing EREBUS shoot until certain that South Goodwin Minefield is clear. Should also wish to sweep near 2A Buoy, which can only be done at night. (C.in C. Nore 0934/8 to Adty.).

Considered that Dunkerque Dock area is most profitable target for EREBUS bombardment. Request exact position W buoy and that it may be checked if not now known. In view of enemy mining in Straits of Dover, it is considered that the area of 2 A Buoy is suspect and should be thoroughly swept before any further shoot takes place from there. (C.in C. Nore 1536/8 to Adty.).

/Your 1536 .....

MOST SECRET.

8.10.40.
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Continued)

KREBUS (continued)

Your 1536. Para. Two. "W" Buoy was fixed with probably a resulting accuracy of about quarter of a mile in its position relative to Dunkerque. (V.A. Dover 1856/8 to C.in C. Nore.).

Shelling from Gris Nez Batteries

Seven 2-gun salvoes were fired from Cape Gris Nez Battery at EGLINGTON, MYTILUS, LADY BRASSEY, and LADY DUNCANNON between 0733 and 0750/8 after they had passed South Goodwin Light Vessel. No damage or casualties. Final salvo straddled South Goodwin Light Vessel at 0740. (V.A. Dover 1301/8 to Adty.).

Western Channel Patrol.

Patrol A.X. (C.in C. W.A. 1509/8 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

Iceland.

Laying of Hvalfiord Minefield completed. Scientists are still experimenting. Ships leave for Sevdisfiord about 10/10. (MANCHESTER CITY 1630/8 to D.T.M.).

Albaster has now proposed that Walrus Squadron should remain in Iceland for the winter. Owing to acute shortage of this type of aircraft and the expected high wastage rate in an Icelandic winter this proposal cannot be entertained unless strong arguments can be put forward showing what it is expected the squadron can achieve in the few hours of daylight and adverse weather conditions. (5th S.L. 1650/8 to F.O. Iceland).

Submarines

USK.

F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1700/2. Detail one A/S Trawler to arrive Barrow 1730/9 to escort USK to Clyde. (C.in C. W.A. 1209/8 to F.O.I.C. Belfast) No escort immediately available. Propose sailing A/S Trawler LADY MADELINE to arrive Barrow A.M./10th. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1810/8 to C.in C. W.A.)

Aircraft Bombing Information.

My 1126/2. Brest. (F.O.S. 1528/8 to S/M's in Area B.)

Greenock Area.

Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1558/8).

/ SUNFISH .....

MOST SECRET.

8.10.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines. (continued)

SUNFISH.	Leave Patrol for base 2000/9. Route. (Capt. S.3. 1601/8 to SUNFISH).
Positions.	For following 24 hours at 0700/9. (V.A.S. 1719/8).
MINERVA.	When ready for service is to join 9th S/M Flotilla. (V.A.S. 1804/8 to S.5.).

E-Boats.

Patrol HT.	Reports sound of Motor Boat in North East (F.O. Harwich Force 0436/8 to GUILLEMOT, SHEARWATER).
Lizard.	There are strong indications of probable E-Boat a few miles East of Lizard Head. Investigate, keeping clear of QZX.213. (C.in C. W.A. 2057/8 to KASHMIR, JAGUAR).

British Air Activity.

Bombing restrictions	In area 22 extended to 1200/9 (Capt. S. 2. 0739/8 to PORPOISE).
ALYNBANK	Canal Serial 21 (F.O.C. 1st B.S. 1230/8 to ALYNBANK.)
Rover patrols.	With torpedoes at dusk and during moonlight Cherbourg-Boulogne. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1426/8) Helder, Borkum etc., Cherbourg-Dieppe, Brest - Channel Is.
Aircraft leaving Perth for Stockholm.	Route, time etc. (Air Min. 1440/8) (H.Q.C.C. 1442/8).
Operation No.79.	To be repeated ro-night (H.Q.C.C.1440/8).
Air Searches	For 9/10 (C.in C. Rosyth 1847/8)
Balloon barrage Londonderry	Operational with effect from 8/10 (Air Min. 2305/8).

/ Rescue Service .....

MOST SECRET.

8.10.40.
Tuesday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS,

British Air Activity.

Rescue Service — My 1759/27/9. Experience has shown Walrus type aircraft unsuitable for rescue service when unescorted. Consider defensively armed surface craft working with well armed air R.C. necessary. (R.A.N.A.S. 1306/8).

Enemy Air Activity.

VERNON — Portsmouth Old Grammar School occupied by VERNON Instructional Dept. damaged by fire caused by incendiary bomb at 2200/7. Fire now under control. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0117/8) Details of damage (Supt. C.E. 1725/8).

Convoy "ADAM" — shadowed by one enemy aircraft in 51° 13' N. 1° 28'E. (Whitehall W/T 0808/8).

Tory I. — Unknown aircraft reported over Tory at 1215 moving south (C.in C. W.A. 1225/8).

Frater. — Ref. my 1305/29. One UXB probably 50 kg. has been found at Frater and is being excavated. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1221/8).

CHESHIRE (see ORONSAY) — 1 unidentified aircraft steering 0° 270 55° 30' N. 9° 28' W. (CHESHIRE 1203/8)

Convoy "TOPAZ" (O.A.226). — Shadowed by one aircraft in 56° 43'N. 2° 3'W. (CURACOA 1509/8).

Unknown Ship. — Bombed 1943/8 in 57° 1'N. 11° 9'W. (Lyness T.O.R. 2044/8).

Convoy "PILOT" (F.N.) — Shadowed by one enemy aircraft 52° 39'N. 2° 10'E. (VIMIERA 2056/8).

ORONSAY bombed. — 56°N. 9° 40' W. attacked by aircraft disabled Want immediate assistance. (ORONSAY 1020/8)

Take tugs SCHELDE and SEAMAN under your orders and proceed to assist ORONSAY in 56° N. 10° W. at 1015/8.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1035/8 to SALVONIA).

/ Am proceeding .....

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity. (Continued).

Am proceeding to assist ORONSAY my position course and speed are 055° 46'N. 008° 51'W. 295° 12 knots.

Proceed to ORONSAY bombed in 056° 00'N. 009° 40' W. at 1015.
(C.in C. W.A. 1047/8 to VERITY).

Sail H.M.S. SABRE to assist ORONSAY bombed in 056° 00' N. 009° 40' W. at 1015.
VERITY ordered to position.
(C.in C. W.A. 1049/8 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry)

Proceed immediately to assist ORONSAY disabled by aircraft in 56° 00' N. 9° 40'W. at 1015. (C.in C. W.A. 1051/8 to CHESHIRE)

Amended position, ORONSAY 56°N. 10°W.
(Scapa W/T 1059/8).

Proceed to assistance of S.S. ORONSAY in position 56° N. 10° W. at 1015.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1113/8 to ENGLISHMAN).

Inform tugs being sent (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1121/8 to VERITY).

Sailed tugs SALVONIA SCHELDE and SEAMAN at 1120. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1147/8).

Your 1044 CHESHIRE has been instructed to proceed to assistance of ORONSAY. On relief by CHESHIRE proceed to join convoy of 3 Merchant vessels estimated position course and speed at 1200 56.00 N. 10.00 W. 275° 10 knots approx. and escort until further orders.
(C.in C. W.A. 1157/8 to SALOPIAN).

CAIRO raise steam and proceed to assist ORONSAY bombed and disabled in 56 00 N. 10 00 W. at 1015.
(C.in C. W.A. 1159/8 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

ARROW, OTTAWA escorting ORONSAY back to Clyde on one engine from position 056° 06'N. 010° 36' W. when repairs are made good about 1500. Remaining 3 destroyers proceeding with convoy. WHITEHALL in charge. ORONSAY hull intact few casualties. (ARROW 1201/8. 1730/8 to C.in C. W.A., Adty.).

Sailed DUNDEE to assist ORONSAY.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1214/8 to Adty.)

Your 1051/8. Escorting ORONSAY to Clyde with ARROW and OTTAWA in company cancel request by ORONSAY for assistance.
(CHESHIRE 1507/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

/ Sailed CAIRO ....

MOST SECRET

8.10.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity.

Sailed CAIRO. Expect to reach position 0730/9. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1615/8).

ORONSAY now proceeding to Clyde escorted by CHESHIRE and two destroyers. CAIRO is to proceed to provide protection against further air attack.
(C.in C. W.A. 1649/8 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

My 1157. CHESHIRE is now escorting ORONSAY. Proceed to join convoy direct.
(C.in C. W.A. 1651/8 to SALOPIAN).

You will probably meet convoy O B 225 at about 2000. Alter course to avoid.
(C.in C. W.A. 1837/8 to CHESHIRE).

My position course and speed at 2100 055° 35' 007° 35' W. 090° 10' knots.
(CHESHIRE 2033/8).

Tower Bridge damaged

At 0920/8 one H.E. bomb exploded and splinter fractured hydraulic pipe of Tower Bridge. Bridge open. Bridge out of action for road traffic three to four days. Second H.E. bomb fell, unexploded, midstream abreast Tower Pier. No damage to pier or craft. L.C.C. River passenger traffic diverted to Billingsgate pier.
(F.O.I.C. London 1245/8).

Dover
BURKE
damaged

At 0909 one bomb dropped in Dover harbour. At 1034 one bomb fell on H.M.T. BURKE in tidal basin causing severe damage to ship and some casualties, two bombs fell in Dover harbour and one in the docks area.
(V.A. Dover 1301/8).

London dock area.

D/A bomb dropped 0530/8 on quay at S.E. corner of Junction Dock. W. India Docks, exploded at 1015/8. Considerable damage to quayside, no casualties.
(F.O.I.C. London 1110/8).

Lee on Solent reports low bombing and machine gun by 3 Aircraft. Six bombs dropped no damage to buildings no casualties. One enmy aircraft hit by Lewis guns one small UXB on aerodrome. 1853/8. (R.A.N.A.S. 2311/8.)

MOST SECRET

8.10.40.
Tuesday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Rosyth	Approaches are closed between 2° 52'W. and Oxcars Boom. (C.in C. Rosyth 0727 to JASON).
Isle of Wight	One Type V. German Mine washed up on Isle of Wight 7/10, presumably from Area QZX. 178. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1000/8 to Adty.)
Falmouth	Until a swept channel has been established into Falmouth, shipping to proceed as follows. (C.in C. W.A. 1055/8) Swept channel not yet completed. Explosive cutter and Mines found in water swept 100% yesterday. Appears some form of delay action cutter and Mine has been laid. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1651/8 to Adty.).
S.N. 6A.	My 0944/6. Proposed position of Field. (R.A.M.L. 1109/8 to Adty.).
Dover.	C.in C. Nore's 0525 and 0716. Q Z S 104 and 105 swept 60% between South Goodwin and No.4 buoy by two trawlers A.M. today. One mine exploded 038° 1 mile No. 4 buoy and another sweep parted at same time. Two trawlers then swept ahead of MYTILUS and EGLINGTON from No. 4 buoy to West Goodwin. Intend to sweep Channel between No. 4 buoy and South Goodwin, with four Trawlers as tide and weather permit P.M. today and continue searching to Eastwards of this section of the Channel till dark. (V.A. Dover 1145/8 to Adty.). My 1145 and C.in C. Nore's 1536. No sweeping carried out this afternoon owing to weather. Intend to carry out the same programme starting daylight tomorrow Wednesday as tide and weather permit. Mines appear to be of new type laid shallow and usually detonate in sweep. (V.A. Dover 1903/8 to Adty.)

/ Tunstall .....

MOST SECRET.

8.10.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Tunstall. The explosion at 0420/3 now identified as caused by a British H.2 Mine. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1710/8 to Adty.).

Harwich. Paddlesweepers in 613 Q.Z. swept 80% south eastwards of a line joining 51° 48.7' N. 01° 42' E. and 51° 46.1' N. 01° 38.8' E. One mine German 'W' type dragged in sweep and sunk, sinker recoverd. Sinker similar to last one recovered at Harwich and sent to VERNON. Tomorrow propose extending clearance to eastward to a line 3 miles West of centre line of 151 Q.Z.S. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1922/8 to Adty.).

Humber. Closed, owing to minelaying by aircraft. (F.O. Humber 2341/8 to Adty.).

LOCUST. Mine exploded immediately astern of LOCUST in 51° 32' 8" N. 1° 12' 12" E.
Four casualties. Plummer blocks fractured, and engines out of action. (C.in C. Nore 2301/8).
ROYAL EAGLE and Tug in attendance.
Request Fighter protection from daylight 9th till arrival Nore. (C.in C. Nore 0705/9 to H.Q.F.C.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest. Shipping in Harbour. (H.Q.C.C. 1443/8).

Ijmuiden. One Hospital Ship about 500 tons at 1712/8. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1931/8).

Lorient. Submarines and Shipping at 1500/8. (P.R.U. St. Eval 1950/8 to H.Q.C.C.).

MOST SECRET.

8.10.40.
Tuesday

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFENTS

ST. LAURENT. Holed in collision with s.s. SAINT ENOCH in 55° 13' N. 5° 13' W. Do not require assistance. Intend to proceed to Clyde. (ST. LAURENT 0129/8 to C.in C. W.A.). SAINT ENOCH does not need assistance. ST. LAURENT can proceed to Liverpool if required. (ST. LAURENT 0221/8 to C.in C. W.A.) ST. LAURENT returning towards Clyde. Request port for repairs. (C.in C. W.A. 0403/8 to Adty.). SAINT ENOCH reports her bows bent. (ST. LAURENT 1035/8 to Adty.) E.T.A. 0700/9. (ST. LAURENT 0332/8 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

MYTILUS Broken down near S.W. Gate Buoy. (C.in C. Nore 0310/8 to HAMBLEDON).

ST. CLAIR British, 1637 tons. Propose she remain at Clyde until defects have been completed. Not less than one week. (F.O. Greenock 1704/8 to Adty.).

HELIOTROPE Lost contact with you at 0400. Compass out of action. Request assistance. From HELIOTROPE to FLEUR DE LYS. (A.C.O.S. 0525/8) If clear of Convoy report situation 1200. (C.in C. W.A. 0859/8 to HELIOTROPE).

VIMY. ETA. Lough Foyle 0700. Has major defects necessitating docking. Request port for repairs. (C.in C. W.A. 0821/8 to Adty.).

DOUGLAS. Has sustained minor damage due to weather. (DOUGLAS 0902/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

WINCHELSEA. Hove to due to heavy weather in 57° 12' N. 16° 20' W. A/S set out of action (WINCHELSEA 1130/8).

COMMISSAIRE RAMEL. French, 10,061 tons. Due Cape Town 4/10 from Fremantle. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1105. B./8 to Adty.).

VERITY. Am sustaining damage from sea and leaking through forecastle. Position 55° 33' N. 7° 35'W. Course 292° Speed 12 knots. (VERITY 1300/8 to C.in C. W.A.). Oscillator out of action. Am returning to Lough Foyle (VERITY 1417/8 to C.in C. W.A.)

COAST WINGS. British, 862 tons. Last seen by DAGMAR dropping behind O.G. 43 on 24 or 25/9 in about 49° N. 20° W. Not arrived Lisbon. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1532/8 to Adty.).

MOST SECRET

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
O.A. 224	To disperse after passing through 56° N., 25° W. (C. in C., W.A. 1150/8
O.L. 6	Route (C. in C., W.A., 1130/8) Had to leave heavy weather. Convoy proceeding independently (WINCHELSEA 1130/8)
E.N. 8	Route (N.C.S.O., Methil 1046/8) Escort GAVOTTE, SOUTHERN STAR, M/S LEDA, PANGBOURNE ROSS, (N.C.S.O., Methil 0721/9)
S.L. 48 B	ARSENAL to meet. (C. in C., W.A., 0900/8)
O.B. 225	Trawlers to R.V. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 0201/8) CHESHIRE may meet. (C. in C., W.A., 1837/8)
H.G. 45	Over 50 ships- destroyer escort- See North Atlantic.
O.G. 43	British COAST WING, Straggler, not arrived Lisbon. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1532/8)
O.B. 224	Escort to remain until 0800/9 (C. in C., W.A., 1600/8) SKATE lost touch (SKATE 1201/8)
S.C. 6	Escort from O.B. 224 to join (C. in C., W.A. 1450/8 1600/8) SKATE unable to join. (SKATE 1201/8)
O.A. 226	Fighter escort (C. in C., Rosyth, 1618/8) CURACOA to remain with (C. in C., H.F., 1239/8)
S.L. 49	Route (F.O.C.N.P. to SALOPIAN 1030/8)
S.L. 48 A	ALYNBANK to escort (F.O.C. (D) H.F., 1112/8)
C.W. 14	Request fighter protection (C. in C., Nore. 1716/8)
O.G. 43	Lisbon pilot's intimate knowledge of- See NEURALIA, North Atlantic.
H.X.	Provisional forecast of escorts, 81 to 85. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1658/8)
H.X. 77	Delay of W.S. 3. precludes initial escort of H.X. 77 being reinforced sufficiently far west. In view of importance of this convoy request H.X. 77 may be re routed South of Rockall. (C. in C., W.A., 1900/8 to Adty.)
Air Protection	A. 136/8/10. Amending A. 120/7/10. re protection to East Coast Convoys. (Air Ministry 1100/8)

/OAKFIELD.....

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

OAKFIELD — To anchor at Great Nore, (C. in C., Nore, 0804/8)

BEACHY — Movements (D.S.D. 1024/9)

Troop Convoys

W.S. 3 — Owing weather, Liverpool section turned round until weather moderates. Glasgow section not in company. One escort already damaged. DOUGLAS minor damage due to weather. (DOUGLAS 0902/8)
Convoy to turn round and join Clyde section at best speed leaving DOUGLAS behind if weather necessitates. (C. in C., W.A., 1113/8
Early arrival at Suez of great importance. (1st S.L.0009/8) Position by and report at 2000. (A.C.W.A., 2051/8)
Liverpool portion not met. (WHITEHALL, 2020/8

ROYAL ULSTERMAN) WORCESTERSHIRE) — (Sailing for Iceland) Admty 1925/5. Request escort be detailed. (F.O.I.C., Greenock to C. in C., W.A., 1209/8)

Convoy Cycle — Concur with Admty. 1850/7. Consider F.N. and F.S. convoys should continue to run as frequently as escorts allow to avoid shipping delay. (C. in C., Rosyth 1639/8)

QUEEN ELIZABETH — Probably leave New York (date) to fit out as troop transport. To proceed Singapore for dry-docking. (D. of S.T. 1648/8)

SVEADROTT CASTOR — My 2041/30 Swedish authorities inform me they are asking for authority to send tanker CASTOR in company with SVEADROTT from Gothenburg to load oil in America.
Would prefer that two vessels should sail in company. Swedish inform me they have instructions for SVEADROTT to follow channel quoted in Notice to Mariners number 1685 of 1940. If this refers to Skagerack they point out that on account of German minefield crossing British clear channel they are forced to take German Pilot and proceed via Christiansand along the route taken by SVEADROTT on her recent homeward voyage. (N.A. Stockholm, 1745/8)

/A.M.C.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

A.M.C. Escorts

Now that U-Boats are operating beyond 20° W., it is considered that A,M,Cs escorting H.X. convoys should turn round before reaching R/V with A/S escort.
In order that the convoy may not then be wholly unescorted request you will consider the possibility of including one long endurance destroyer in each A/S escort which could R/V with the convoy further to the westward. (D.O.D. (H) 2222/8 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Straits Patrol

When sufficient destroyers available, patrol to be instituted to prevent French unescorted ships passing through Straits. Spanish territorial waters must be respected. (1st S.L. to F.O.C.N.A., 0202/8)

SERGENT GOUARNE

My 2215/7 Armed Trawler SERGENT GOUARNE 2136/7 from east to west (S.O.I. Gib., 0815/8

MILFORD

Admty. 2309/9 MILFORD may be used as additional escort, but will not be available until arrival M.T. Convoy off Cameroons River. (C. in C., S.A., 1507N/8)

French Africa

Situation report 30, nothing to report. (D.N.I., 1628/8)

Treatment of French Submarines

My 2033/28/8 and 2300/14/9. Should a French submarine be met in company with a surface warship the ship is to be informed that any attempt by the submarine to dive will be treated as a hostile act and immediate retalliatory action will be taken against both ships. (Head of M. 1509/8)

Enemy Intelligence

Air reconnaissance 9/10 unsatisfactory. 2 ships at Libreville apparently same as 6/10. 2 ships unidentified in Port Gentil. Aircraft unseen (CORNWALL 1722Z/8)

Duala Arrivals

General de Gaulle with 700 troops arrived in COMMANDANT DUBOC and COMMANDANT DOMINE WESTERNLAND with 400 troops escorted by CORNWALL sailed for Pointe Noire 2200/8. Expected to arrive daylight 11/10. After disembarkation both vessels subsequently independently to Freetown.
Remainder of French troops escorted by DEVONSHIRE and destroyers will sail for Duala 0715/9 SAVORGNAN-DE-BRAZZA sailing later, engine defects. DEVONSHIRE will anchor Manoka until M.T. convoy arrives Duala.
SPEARS+ with portion of Mission proceeding Duala, remainder in WESTERNALAND.
FAULKNOR FURY FORESTER will sail from Cameroons River bar for Freetown at 1100/9
PENNLAND sailed unescorted 2100/8 for Freetown. Expected to arrive p.m./13.
(F.O.C.I.C.S., 2201/A/8)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.10.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

H.G. 45 Escorts

In view of convoy H.G. 45, consisting of over 50 ships intend to sail HOTSPUR and FIREDRAKE owing to their high endurance as extra escort till 15/10. This will mean that two of four destroyers of 13th D.F. available to S.O. Force H will consist of V E E class until return of HOTSPUR and FIREDRAKE about 17/10. (F.O.C.N.A., 1734/8) Your 2310/6. Reason to believe sailing of H.G. 45 has been reported to enemy agents. (D.N.I. to F.O.C.N.A., 1859/8)

NEURALIA

Report from master that Portuguese pilot who boarded ship at Lisbon knew distribution of Convoy O.G. 43, and that 10 ships from Portuguese ports were sailing to join convoy leaving Gib. 10/10. (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1722/8)

Lisbon Shipping

Your 1047/6 and 1901/7. VIDETTE is now patrolling on line Cape Trafalgar- Cape St. Vincent. (F.O.I.C., Gibraltar, 1021/8 to N.C.S.O., Lisbon)

Air Patrols

3 surface reconn., 2 A/S patrols. (200 Group, 1720/8)

Suspicious Ship

WINDSOR CASTLE sighted suspicious vessel 30/9 position 003° 08' S 017° 18' W., course 330° speed 12 knots. Description. Vessel may be raider homeward bound for Germany or German occupied Port. (F.O.C.N.A., 1704/8 to CUMBERLAND, AUSTRALIA, etc.)

South Atlantic

COMMISSAIRE RAMEL

Due Capetown 4/10 from Fremantle, not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1105B/8)

BARHAM

Route amended owing large fuel consumption (BARHAM 1140Z/8)

Hospital Ship

Union Dept. of Defence cannot spare SELANDIA, and renew urgent request for hospital ship. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1242/8

Troop Movements

Union Dept. of Defence have no definite plans after C.M. 4. Release of DURBAN CASTLE and LLANGIBBY CASTLE. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1246/8)

/Suspicious Ship...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.10.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic- Contd.

Suspicious Ship

Oiler resembling Italian TUSCANIA sighted 37.06 S., 27° E., course 280°, speed 10 knots at 0930 G.M.T./7. (D.D.I.C., 0146/8) My 0146. Silhouette of TUSCANIA closely resembles that of German tanker EUROFIELD which left Teneriffe 3/9 fully loaded. (D.D.I.C., 1257/8.) My 0146. Confirm on arrival of BRITISH VISCOUNT Abadan to Table Bay that she was not vessel referred to. (D.D.I.C., to N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1543/8)

NEPTUNE to intercept

Admty. 0146/8. Endeavour to intercept. (c. in C., 1757N/8)

Admty. 0146/8. Norwegian PAN EUROPE located by Air Reconnaissance, 1443Z/8 in 36.49 S., 20.17 E., Silhouette similar to TUSCANIA. Due Capetown 9/10 where movements will be confirmed. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 2152B/8)

ARAWA

Required to escort convoy sailing from Freetown end of October. (C. in C., E.I., 2045/8)

Raider Report

Following received 0231/9 from HIGHLAND PRINCESS:- At 1235/8 G.M.T., Q raider distress signal was heard on I.C.W. being immediately deliberately jammed by Spark signals. Within a few seconds both stations ceased transmitting. No other particulars that the Q signal were heard. At 1540 weak I.C.W. signals apparently retransmitting the original message were heard. Deliberate interference this occasion. Both stations ceased simultaneously. Transmitting period too brief to obtain D/F bearing. My position at this time 001° 03' S., 031° 25' W., (Portishead Radio 2118/8) Repeated to C. in C., S.A., (D.N.I., 0532/9)
Following ship, possibly returning raider in 03 08 S., 17 18 W., at 1430/30 course 330 degrees 12 knots. (Description)
(C. in C., W.A., 1105/8)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.10.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Press Communique — Your 1532/4. Reasons appreciated, but considered desirable to inform Italians Malta had been reinforced. (1st. S.L., to C. in C., Med., 1013/8)

Operation B.S. — Orders to TRIAD, (N.O.I.C., Malta 1157/8)

Evacuations — From Malta. Information requested re facilities. (V.A.Malta, 1921/8)

Aircraft Reconnaissance — Malta situation report to 1700/8. All times G.M.T. Following aircraft carried out reconnaissances covering same area as in report of 6/10, for enemy surface forces. 03.34 - 05.50 - Swordfish of 830 squadron F.A.A. sighted at 04.18 hrs. three enemy destroyers - position 094° Delimara point - 48 miles - course 014° speed 20 knots. Enemy then increased speed to 30 knots altering course to make landfall about Syracuse. W/T silence broken to report this but no message received here hence aircraft receiving no acknowledgement returned immediately and before landing dropped message giving position of enemy at 05.45 hrs. as 124° Cape Passero - 28 miles - course 348° - speed 30 knots. Striking force not sent out as enemy would be in Augusta or near Sicilian coast off Catania when intercepted. No enemy air activity over Malta today. (Govr., Malta, 2239/8)

M/S Tug — BRITANNIA, at Alexandria, renamed BLUE DANUBE. (Hd of P Branch, 2320/8)

TRUANT — Orders for patrol and arrival Alexandria. (Capt. S. 1. 2355/8)

Bucharest W/T — Very polite with British station and asking for traffic. May indicate Germans have taken control. (C.T.C., 1315/8)

Turkish Visit — Visit of Turkish Delegation to Fleet. V.A. Ulgen to report personally to President on his return. (C. in C., Med., 1159/8) Re instructions to Turkish Mission (Mil. Attache, Ankara, to W.O., 2000/8)

/Fleet Strength....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.10.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Fleet Strength — My 1845/5. Re statement of requirements for attack on Libyan communications. (C. in C., Med., 1155/8) (See Mediterranean Volume)

Dodecanese — Intelligence reports on results of recent raids. (C. in C., Med., 1137/8)

East Indies

Suspicious Ship — Oiler resembling Italian TUSCANIA sighted 37.06 S., 27° E., course 280° speed 10 knots at 0930 G.M.T./7. (D.D.I.C., 0146/8) See South Atlantic.

U.S. 6. — Concur in A.C.N.B. 0301/8. (C. in C., E.I., 1204/8)

VARELLA — Troop transport sailed for Bombay. (S.T.O., Mombasa, 0523Z/8)

Staff — Re J.P.S. and additional N.O. for Intelligence (your 1921/3) Observations, (C. in C., E.I., 0516/Z/8)

S.W. 2. — Amending his 1050/7. re position for R.V. (C. in C., E.I., 1358Z/8)

W.S. 3. — Admty. 2300/7. Unless ARAWA available, CARTHAGE can escort W.S. 3. (slow) from Durban to Aden. Complications will arise due to W.S. 3. Possibly coinciding on being close to B.N. 8 and B.S. 8. may be necessary to use DORSETSHIRE or ask C. in C., Med., for assistance. (C. in C., E.I., 0954Z/8)

China

Wei-Hai-Wei Withdrawal — F.O. tel. 1060 to Tokyo, re Wei-Hai-Wei. Request you arrange for withdrawal of personnel and as far as possible stores and yard craft as proposed by N.O.I.C. Wei-Hai-Wei 0057/2. (Hd. of M. to C. in C., China, 1916/8)

Singapore Defence Conference — C.O.S. telegram No 12. Decided that C. in C., China, should preside. Hoped representatives of U.S.A. and N.E.I., will be brought in. (1st. S.L., 1608/8)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.10.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Raider Reports

ANTONIA 0850/8. Raider reported was H.M.S. AUSONIA (AUSONIA 0905/8) QQQQ 45.00 N., 41.50 W., ATHEL QUEEN. Unknown ship closing 1545. QQQQ 44.56 N., 41.47 W., ATHEL QUEEN Unknown ship closing 1556. (Lands End Radio, 1654/8, 1701/8) ATHEL QUEEN, cancel my distress 1633/8. (Portishead Radio, 1743/8)

HAKOZAKI MARU

Your 1602/7. Ship to be detained. (D.E.W.D to C. in C., A.W.I., 1352/8) Following from M.E.W. HAKOZAKI MARU may now be released (D.E.W.D., 1828/8 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

Halifax Oil Storage

Your 1141/4. Welcome any steps you may take in accordance with your para (7) to meet requirements that can be definitely foreseen. Details of your para (2) seem to envisage circumstances which could not arise unless there had been a successful invasion of this country, which could only be achieved after the destruction of the Fleet. Such a contingency is, we think, even more remote now than when the Prime Minister made his declaration on 4/7) (Hd. of M., 1406/8 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

French M.V.

Following from Air Mail Censorship. CHARLES L.D. left Casablanca 28/9 for Martinique with soldiers for repatriation. Ship due Martinique 10/10 will remain approximately 10 days and return to Morocco with load of sugar. Propose to intercept her on departure from Martinique if other commitments allow. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1101/8)

Australia

U.S. 5. A.

Route. Escort PERTH (D.N.O., W. Australia, 0125Z/8) PERTH and U.S. 5. A. arrived Fremantle 1040Z/7. ADELAIDE arrived Sydney 2026Z/7. (A.C.N.B., 0100Z/8) Left Fremantle 2300Z/7 for Bombay. Escorts (A.C.N.B. 0951Z/8)

U.S. 6.

Admty. 1610/6. Proposed escort. Sydney to Bass Straits, ADELAIDE; Bass Straits to R.V. in Indian Ocean, PERTH; thence to Bombay, CANBERRA. (A.C.N.B., 0301Z/8) Prospective sailing date. (A.C.N.B., 0518Z/8

U.S. 7 and 8

Composition and prospective sailing dates. (A.C.N.B., 0518Z/8)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.10.1940
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

EUROFELD — Ship sighted resembling - See South Atlantic.

(a) KLAUS SCHOKE)
(b) LUISEBORNHOFEN) — My 1910/4. Both ships in inner harbour to Transfer 100 tons coal from (b) to (a) probably on 8/10. (V.C., Horta, 2250/7) Considerable activity in business ashore. (V.C. Horta, 2359/8)

RUDERSCHEIM — B. 2 report SPRINGFJORD. launched 1939 at Trondheim for a London firm, left Trondheim 30/9 with troops. Reported renamed RUDERSCHEIM.

ARKADIA — Arrived Istanbul 4/10. Due to leave 11/10 for Odessa and Braila. (D.S. 400)

SALZBURG — Arrived from Istanbul with 2078 tons general cargo. (Galatz, 1021/8)

Lulea — All German ore ships with double decks in Luela on 30/9 ordered to return to Germany at once. (D.S. 400)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CARMEN — C. 2. report. torpedoed off Durazzo on 30/9. (D.S. 399)

ORATA — Discharging her cargo ashore at Las Palmas on 4/10. (D.S. 400)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

CHARLES L.D. — See America and West Indies.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.10.1940
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

BRITISH GENERAL (Torpedoed 6/10)

Failed to find in positions given. Must abandon search at 1200/8. Fuel only to reach Londonderry. Search restricted by yesterday's gale. 51.25 N., 21.40 W., (HARVESTER, 0930/8)

TANCRED (Sunk 26/9)

Norwegian TANCRED sunk by one torpedo 0707 G.M.T. 26/9 053° 32' N., 024° 35" W. Submarine not seen before attack but surfaced and shelled ship after abandonment then proceeded west on surface could not be described owing to darkness. No casualties Full crew 36 arrived New York in Norwegian TRICOLOUR, life boat stood by watched ship sinking. (N.C.SO. New York, 1451/8)

TOURAINE (Torpedoed 7/10)

Norwegian 5811 tons, torpedoed 1615/7. 12 survivors picked up in 55.14 N., 10.34 W., by DERBYSHIRE. 2 more boats in vicinity. Ships had not sunk by 1900/7. (DERBYSHIRE 2115/8)

CONFIELD

Torpedoed 2030/8 See 9/10.

Submarines Reported

0432

D.F. Unidentified enemy unit, probable U-Boat, 58.40 N., 4.40 E., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 0540/8)

1211

55°-56° N., 22°-25° W., say 500' W. of Bloody Foreland. (D.S.

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: No Information.
German : 1 in about 55° N- 56° N., 22° W- 25° W., at 1211/8.
1 or 2 more well West of 20° W. between latitudes 50° N and 58° N.
1 probably between 53° 30' N., and 55° N., and 15° and 20° W.
No information of any U/B East of 15° W., 1 about 58° N., 5° E at 0432/8, homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C., 1258/8)

15A

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Three ships of Convoy S.C. 6. were torpedoed 300 miles N.W. of Malin Head about 2100 today (GRAIGWEN, ZANNES GOUNARIS, DELPHIN)

British Air Activity

R.A.F. last night attacked Channel ports, docks at the Haque, Bremen shipyards, and TIRPITZ at Wilhelmshaven; near misses, including that of a 200 lb S.A.P. bomb were seen near the latter.

One Blenheim also bombed Le Havre quays today.

Enemy Air Activity

Two attacks were made on St. Merryn R.N.A.S. Station today. Damage was done and the aerodrome is unserviceable due to unexploded bombs.

Damage was caused at the London dock area in attacks today.

SS ALDERNEY QUEEN was bombed and machine gunned at 1600 today in the southern Irish Sea, and was sunk.

Mining

Operation B.S.40 — Three Swordfish laid mines off the mouth of the Ems River.

M/S Trawler SEA KING was sunk by underwater explosion in Grimsby Roads this evening.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected off the north east coast between Hartlepool and St. Abbs Head and between Flamborough Head and the Humber.
The Humber was opened this morning.

Tees and Hartlepool were closed this evening.

/Operations.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

The French submarine PONCELET which was previously at Libreville is reported to have arrived at Port Gentile (French Equatorial Africa) 3/10.

General de Gaulle landed at Duala today and was well received.

Mediterranean

At 0418/8 a Swordfish of F.A.A. sighted 3 enemy destroyers off Eastern Sicily and reported, but no message was received in Malta Receiving no acknowledgement, the aircraft returned at once and dropped a message giving the position of the enemy. The latter would have been in Augusta or near the coast of Sicily when intercepted, and no striking force was sent out.

3 Blenheims today attacked shipping at Tobruk. Two tankers were hit and on one of them a fire started. Direct hits were made on a large ship.

Four enemy aircraft which approached Malta this morning were intercepted by a British aircraft. One of the enemy was shot down and another so damaged as to be unlikely to reach its base.

East Indies

Blenheims attacked targets at Assab again today. The fires started during the attack early yesterday morning were still burning at 0600 today.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals — At 0200/9 (D.C. 0228/9) At 1400/9 (D.C. 1401/9)

Nore Command Notice for Steam — Ships not required for duty keep steam at 4 hours notice. (C. in C., Nore, 1055/9)

Policy

A/A Defence of South Coast Towns — The attack by single planes on South Coast town presents an awkward problem.
Eastbourne for instance is visited daily and yesterday was five times bombed by a single machine.
I suggest that a partial antidote to this for of attack which appears to be steadily on the increase, would be some mobile A/A guns, which could move from town to town and spring a surprise on the enemy, who would offer easy targets as they fly low on these occasions. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1027/9 to Adty.)

The ruse is already being employed by Fighter Command in accordance with their appreciation of the tactical situation and requirements. (D. of L.D. 2107/9 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Force ACTIVE — 753. Understand Force ACTIVE+is being disbanded. Commanding Officers have already gone. Suggest vessels at Newhaven with C. and M parties where they will be available at short notice if required. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 2217/9 to Admty.)

Movements

30th M/S Flotilla — Admty. 1831/7. Intend sailing Flotilla less SHOVA 10/10 to join F.N. 4. for passage to Rosyth. (F.O.Humber 1130/9 to Adty.)

SCIMITAR — Your 0930/9. Remain at Lough Foyle. (C. in C., W.A., 1227/9 to SCIMITAR)

Dover — Patrols for night 9/10. (V.A.Dover, 1442/9)

JERSEY — Request you sail JERSEY from Humber at 0700/10 for Plymouth to arrive there about 0700/11. Route. (C. in C., Nore, 1514/9 to F.O.I.C. Humber)

/Trawler Lines...

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

Northern Patrol	Trawler Lines 9/10. (A.C.O.S. 1536/9)
Portsmouth	Movements for night 9/10. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1557/9)
Rosyth Area	Estimated positions for 2000/9. (C. in C., Rosyth 1746/9)
Nore Command	M.T.B's available at Harwich, Chatham and Sheerness. (C. in C., Nore, 1915/9)
DOUGLAS	Intend sailing DOUGLAS on completing fuelling as by R.A.D.'s 1154/7. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1053/9 to R.A.D.) Delayed by electrical defects. Intend to sail her at 0630/10. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1604/9 to R.A.D.)

Operations

Operation FRUIT	Cancelled. (V.A.Dover 0658/9 to H.Q.F.C.)
Operation LUCID	Seems necessary consider possibility that enemy may now have information about operation Lucid. After 4 postponements talk on shore more or less inevitable. Other pointers are new mine-fields off South Goodwin and tendancy to bring E-Boats to Calais and Boulogne while keeping outer harbours camparatively clear of shipping. Suggest this valuable operation be deferred till good target exists at one or both ports. If outer harbour sufficiently full there would be little need to cancel operation due to wind not being in desired direction. (C. in C., Nore, 0936/9 to Admty.)
New A/S Submarine Patrol in Atlantic	Your 2127/8. Approved. (C. in C., H.F., 0937/9 to V.A.S.) My 0937/9 only referred to use of CLYDE for this patrol. Position of patrol is matter for C. in C., W.A. Re D.F. Watch being maintained. (C. in C., H.F., 1301/9 to V.A.S.) Your 2127/8. Concur. (C. in C., W.A., 1317/9 to V.A.S.)

/Iceland.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Iceland

Admty. 1925. ANTHONY and AMAZON escort for WORCESTERSHIRE, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, (C. in C., W.A., 0947/9 to F.O.I.C., Greenock)

Admty. 1650/8. It is of reat importance to security ideas that air R.C. be maintained With good shelter which army are ready to provide appears no reason why R/C to full endurance of Walrus should not be carried out on even shortest days if weather good enough to make enemy landing a possibility. Large number of sheltered fiords Iceland which enemy submarines could use require air R/C.
No other means of investigating report from fishing vessels or coast watchers.
A/S Patrol Reykjavik of importance in view of large amount of sea transport during coming winter. Only alternative appears to be flying boats. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1654/9 to Adty.)

Your 1704/8. ST. CLAIR should be sailed for Reykjavik as arranged in Convoy B.A.S. 4 (D.O.D. H. 2128/9 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Force D

Intend to carry out operation on lines of D.H. with FURIOUS, BERWICK, NORFOLK and necessary Destroyers. Force to sail pm/12 and carry out phase one during moonlight 15/16 with option of 24 hours postponement if weather unsuitable. Phase two will only be carried out if circumstances favourable. Force would return to Scapa about 20/10, and ill be known as Force D. (C. in C., H.F. 1013/9 to Adty.)

My 1013/9. Oiler MONTENOL escorted by 2 Tribals to be sailed for Skaale Fiord Faroes to arrive p.m. 12/10. After completing with fuel, these destroyers are to rendezvous with force D. as required to provide screen for phase one, the original screen returning to Scapa.
When relieved, on completion of phase one, the 2 Tribals are to escort Oiler MONTREAL back to Scapa. F.O.C.B.C.S. pass by hand to FURIOUS and BERWICK. (C. in C., H.F. 1019/9 to A.C.O.S.)

/Operation MEDIUM...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operation-Contd.

Operation MEDIUM

Your 2350/8. Request information as to number, type, and, if possible, formation of Fighter Escort. (C. in C., W.A., 1222/9 to Adty.)

Reference para. 6 of my letter Ops/51 of 8/10. Cancellation if made by Bomber Command is to be passed to Coastal Command by 1800 hours. Cancellation if made by Royal Navy will be passed to Coastal Command via 15 Group by 1900 hours. As already instructed Coastal Command should pass cancellation to all concerned. (Air Ministry 1300/9 to Air Commands)

Request you inform CARDIFF, VANOC, VOLUNTEER that Motor Gunboats will not take part owing to weather. (C. in C., W.A., 1449/9 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Operation postponed 12 hours. C. in C., Portsmouth inform Force F. (C. in C., W.A. 1733/9 to Adty., C. in C., Portsmouth, V.A.Dover, V.A.S. REVENGE, D. 5. and NEWCASTLE) (H.Q.C.C. 1755/9 to 15 Group)

My 1733/9. Request arrangements be made with either Bomber or Coastal Command for Operation to be carried out at 0330/11. (C. in C., W.A., 1744/9 to Adty.)

Re special orders re recognition of friendly aircraft and tactics of escorting fighters. (Air Ministry, 1800/9 to Adty.)

ALERT

A/L. M 010327/40 of 3/10. Propose that ALERT be based at Newhaven for the operation, which can take place as soon as she arrives there. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1627/9 to Adty.)

EREBUS

Your 1536/8. Dunkirk Dock Area appears a profitable Target. (A.C.N.S., H 2217/9 to C. in C., Nore.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

WILK — Passes May Island 1930/9 for Patrol near 58° 10' N., 4° 40' E., Route (Capt. S. 3rd S/M. F. 1139/9 to SUNFISH) to proceed to patrol in 58° 55' N., 4° 30' E., (F.O.S. 2012/9)

Positions — For following 24 hours at 0700/10. (V.A.S 1604/9 and 2049/9)

Bombing Information — My 1126/2. Havre. (F.O.S. 1716/9 to UPRIGHT)

My 102/100 of 16th August. Three submarines are required weekly commencing 14/10. As I am informed only two submarines are available from 7th S/M.F. it is requested that application may be made to V.A. S/M for a third S/M. Three S/Ms are required from now onwards. (NIMROD 1729/9 to Capt. S. 7.)

UPRIGHT — In D. 4. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1735/9)

RUBIS, SUNFISH, STURGEON — In view of enemy activity in Skaggerak, RUBIS to proceed to 59° 20' N., 4° 20' E., SUNFISH and STURGEON are not to return to Base, but are to remain on patrol until further orders. (V.A.S. 1852/9 to S/Ms in Area A.)
SUNFISH to patrol near 58° 30' N., 5° 10' E
STURGEON in Zone C. 1. (F.O.S. 2012/9)

E-Boats

Aldeburgh — Following from WAVEFLOWER. Small craft proceeding at high speed North Easterly. Our position Aldeburgh Float. (N.O.I.C., Harwich 0115/9 to GUILLEMOT, SHEARWATER)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

BELLONA II — British, 840 tons. Bombed and set on fire 4 miles East of Gourdon. 11 killed, 17 picked up by Gourdon Lifeboat. Ship burning but still afloat and drifting North. A/P Trawler TERVANI ordered to stand by and tow to Dundee. (C. in C., Rosyth 0111/9 to Admty)

Lee-on-Solent Naval Air Station — Air Raid on p.m./8. Details of damage. Repairs estimated £50. (Supt. C.E. Portsmouth 1230/9 to C.E. in C., Adty.)

Ford R.N. Air Station — Air-Raid at dusk 8/10. Details of damage. Full details not yet available. (Supt. C.E. Portsmouth 1240/9 to C.E. in C., Adty.)

Sheerness — 2 bombs were dropped near A/A Range. No immediate repairs needed. (O.C.W. Sheerness 1240/9 to Civil Lord.)

Eastleigh R.N. Station — Air-Raid at dusk 8/10. Details of damage. Repairs estimated £100 (Supt. C.E. Portsmouth 1913/9 to C.E. in C., Adty.)

St. Merryn — 2 attacks at 1900 and 2015/9 by at least 2 Dornier Aircraft with H.E. and Incendiary Bombs. No casualties. Some damage. Aerodrome unserviceable owing to U.X.B's. (St. Merryn 2105/9 to C. in C., W.A.)

Portland — Attacks on Dockyard by 2 aircraft between 2020 and 2140. About 8 bombs dropped. Details of damage. (F.O.I.C. Portland 2227/9 to Adty.)

Mining

Humber — Heavy Explosion reported by a Balloon Barrage Drifter at 0402/9 near and to Northward of Chequer Shoal Buoy. (F.O. Humber, 0930/9 to Adty.)
Humber is open to navigation. (F.O.Humber 1016/9 to Adty.)

ACTUOSITY — British, 359 tons, in Convoy F.S. 97, sank after striking submerged object at 0400/3rd October, about half a mile West of No 8 B Buoy laid in 52° 57' 30" N., 1° 29' 30" E. No pronounced impact or explosion, but strong smell of gas detected. Crew landed at Cromer. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth 1140/3 to Adty.) Note: Message received 1215/8/10.

/SN 6 A.....

MOST SECRET

9.10.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

SN. 6A. 1A.	Cancel my 1109/8. Proposed position of Field as follows (R.A.M.L. 1421/9 to Adty.)
SN.10 A SN.100	Unless SN.10 A can be carried out before 12/10, intend to carry out SN.100 (Trial Lay off Port ZA) on that date. (R.A.M.L. 1523/9 to Adty.)
Tees Hartlepool	Ports closed owing to suspected Minelaying. Weather at present unfavourable for sweeping (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 2115/9 to Adty.)
SEA KING (M/S Trawler)	Regret report loss by underwater explosion in Grimsby Roads. Believed no survivors. (F.O. Humber 2141/9 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Possible Raider	M/V sighted 30/9 in 3°S 17° W., steering 330° at 12 knots may be a homeward bound Raider. Description. (F.O.C.N.P. 1149/9 to Northern Patrol)
Cherbourg	Photographic R/C on 5 and 7/10. (D.D.I.C. 1216/9 to C. in C., W.A.)
Skaggerak	German W/T activity suggest passage of German Naval Unit, possibly Destroyers or larger vessels, through Skagerrak and Northwards along coast of Norway commencing p.m./9. (V.A.S. 1852/9 to S/M's Area A)

MOST SECRET

9.10.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

DROMORE CASTLE — British, 5242 tons. Due Durban 5/9 from Cardiff. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town, 1215/B/9 to Adty.)

ANDELLE — Due Durban 5/9 from Freetown. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town, 1215 B/9 to Adty.)

DOUGLAS — Delayed by electrical defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1604/9 to R.A.D.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
HX 76 B	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN to R.V. (C. in C., W.A., 1410/9)
FS 5 & FN 7	Postponed 24 hours. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1511/9, 1526/9)
WN 21	CURACOA to rejoin, previous order to meet HX 76 cancelled (R.A.D. H.F., 1913/9)
BAS 4	ST CLAIR to sail for Reykjavik in. (D.O.D. (H) 2128/9)
HX 76 A	HEARTSEASE to join (C. in C., W.A., 1609/9) Position at 1800/9. Waiting arrival of HX 76 B dispersing 2200 (HEARTSEASE, 1805/9) Cancel my 1609 (C. in C., W.A., 2127/9)
HX 79	Sailing telegram (N.O.I.C. 2200/8)
SL 51	Additions to 1522/4 (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1147/9)
HX 77	Amend route (D.T.D., 1253/9 Cancelled) (C. in C., W.A., to RANPURA, 1520/9 and to F.O.C.N.P., 1540/9)
HX 80	Ocean escort LACONIA, sailing 12/10, returning to Halifax (F.O. 3 B.S. 1214/9) My 1453/8 COULTARN carrying explosives. (N.O.I.C., Halifax 1454/8)
SHX 80	Advance sailing telegram (S.C.N.O., Halifax 1040/9)
HX 81	Time and position (N.C.S.O. Bermuda 1029/9)
OG 44	Delayed 24 hours. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1239/9)
HX 79	Sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax 2205/8 recd. 1046/9)
HG 45	List, cargoes, distributions. (F.O.C.N.A. 2141/9)
SL 48	Instructions re BRITISH AMBASSADOR (D.O.D. (H) 1811/9)
OB 226	List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 0916/9)
OA 227	Route (N.C.S.O., Methil, 0943/9)
HG 45	Route (F.O.C.N.A., 2130/9) (D.T.D. 1933/9)
EN and WN	Proposed cycle (D.T.D., 1933/9) Concur in C. in C., Rosyth 1639/8 (C. in C., Nore, 0957/9)

/Air Escort.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

Air Escort

Admty. 1906/4, notifying increase in convoy traffic East and North Coast. Fighter escort impracticable. Fighter cover will be provided to best ability of squadrons available. (H.Q., F.C., to Admty 1635/9)

Convoy Positions

Estimated for 2000/9. (C. in C., Rosyth 1746/9)

Odd Convoys
OB 226
SL 49

SS BEACHY expects to leave Clyde 9/10 in Convoy O.B.C. 226. BEACHY and ESCORT will leave Convoy about p.m./12. Will rendezvous with convoy SL 49 about 13/10 and return to Clyde with them. Balloon may fly as high as 2500 feet. (D.S.D. 1024/9 to Air Min. F.O.6.)

Troop Convoys

W.S. 3. Escorts in South Atlantic and Red Sea (D.O.D. (F) 1354/9) Request appreciation of positions of both parts and escorts. (D.C. 2125/9) Reply (C. in C., W.A. 2223/9) Parted company with KENYA and Clyde portion at 1600. Weather bad. Damage to destroyers. (ACTIVE 2310/9) Routes (C. in C., W.A., 1030/9, 1040/9)

W.S. 4. Provisional cruiser escorts.

Avoiding Contacts

Attention of Commodores to be drawn to M.N. Code, article 54 A. Importance of ships keeping clear of an escort vessel investigating a contact to be stressed at convoy conferences.

St. Lawrence

Re routing by N.C.S.O's Clyde and Liverpool of ships for Quebec, Montreal, etc., by longer route south of Bermuda, Anticosti. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1804/7)

ROYAL ULSTERMAN

A.M. 1925/5. Sailing cancelled. (D.O.D.(H) 1204/9)

ALA

Norwegian. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN to intercept (C. in C., W.A., 1530/9) Take no further action regarding ALA. (C. in C., W.A., 2300/9)

MUALA

Norwegian. Trawler to intercept. (C. in C., W.A., 2310/9) Sailed H.M.T. SPHENE (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 0135/10)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

Coal Situation

Remarks on, in view of expected delays in turn round of shipping East Coast. (C. in C., Nore, 2220/9)

Zigzagging

Cancel my 1933/6 and 1707/7. Amended instructions (D.T.D., 1734/9) Your 2020/7 Admty. 1933/6 and 1707/7 are being cancelled and a revised signal being sent out. In this Commodores are being instructed that they must make the R.V. on correct approach course. Evasive steering is not to be carried out E of 10° W when south of 57° N. (D.T.D. to C. in C., W.A., 1510/9)

MOST SECRET.

9.10.1940.
Wednesday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Azores, SHEFFIELD.	Probable objectives of any enemy attack. (D.O.D. (F) to SHEFFIELD, 1927/9). On parting company from W.S.3, SHEFFIELD to patrol vicinity of Azores to prevent any enemy attempt to capture these islands. Instructions. (A.C.N.S.(F) to SHEFFIELD, 1915/9).
Lisbon.	Belgian ships at. Reply to Admty. 1941/7. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1452/8).
AUSTRALIA.	On arrival at Gibraltar, temporarily to form part of Force H. (D.O.D. (F) 1914/9) Admty. 1913/4. From 0330 Z/5 to 0100 Z/8 patrol maintained between line 020° from Arnel Point, St. Miguel, and Comprida Point to depth of 55 miles from line St. Miguel - Graciosa. Nothing sighted. (AUSTRALIA, 0935/9).

MOST SECRET.

9.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Force H Report.	Admiralty 1635/8. My R. of P No.68/9 of 7/10 covering period of Azores Patrol despatched in Sunderland flying boat which arrived U.K. 8/10. (S.O. Force H, 0850/9).
Libreville. Food.	Following from Gen. de Gaulle. From intercepted telegram, Vichy Force in Gabon serious food shortage. Imperative all supplies to Libreville should be stopped 1850/8. (C.in C. S.A. 0934/9).
French Submarine.	Consul.Gen. Leopoldville states French Intelligence Bureau reports from Gabon that submarine PONCHLET arrived port Gentile 3/10. (C.in C.S.A, 1717N/9, 1833N/9). This is one of submarines previously reported at Libreville. (C.in C. S.A. 2017/9).
Dakar. Expected Attack.	Consul, Tangier, No 48 to F.O. reports that French Navy Office, Casablanca, convinced we are shortly going to launch a second attack on Dakar. (F.O.C.N.A. 2048/9). Report on Dakar by Master of Swedish MILOS (C.in C.S.A. 2031/9).
Freetown. Reconn. by French A/C.	Visited by French A/C 7 times during 12 days. Undesirable should be exposed to frequent reconn. Urge A/A defences should be completed and increased, and completion of Hastings aerodrome and provision of fighter squadron hastened. (C.in C. S.A. 1837/9).
Report of enemy ships.	N.A. Madrid 1301/7. Details of ships which passed westbound (Spanish). (S.O.I. Gib. 1552/9).
French Intelligence.	From interrogation of French personnel who have arrived Gibraltar from Morocco. (S.O.I. Gib. 1246/9).
French Submarine Crew.	Admty. 1329/3. BARHAM has on board 5 officers and 62 ratings survivors from (?French) submarine AJAX. Presume instructions will be given for disposal on arrival Gibraltar. (C.in C. S.A. 1845/9).

MOST SECRET.

9.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.(Contd.)

Duala. French Submarine.	On arrival of M.T. Convoy A/S watch at anchor is to be maintained as follows; MILFORD to anchor in mid channel to S.E. of number 3 buoy, KELT in mid channel between B and C buoys. When all ships of convoy have been taken to Duala, MILFORD and KELT are to anchor to southward of base buoy as arranged by MILFORD and keep A/S watch to protect DEVONSHIRE in Monaka anchorage. French submarine is reported as having left Libreville. (F.O.I.C.S. 1126A/9).
KELT.	After arrival of M.T. Convoy and if not required by you or at Duala, to proceed Lagos, coal and then proceed Freetown. (C.in C.S.A.1809/9).
Destroyers.	My 2201/8. Expected time of arrival Freetown 0800/13. (F.O.I.C.S. 2355/9).
AUDACIEUX.	French Press 2/10 - 5/10. Admty. announce destroyer AUDACIEUX severely hit Dakar, ran aground. (Wolffson.1100/9).
Dakar. Situation.	Becoming normal. Martial law abolished 3/10. Food situation improved. Majority pro- De Gaulle before action. Great number would still support De Gaulle if led. (Acting Govr., Sierra Leone, 1953/9).
	South Atlantic.
ARAWA.	To be at disposal of C.in C.S.A. from arrival Capetown. (D.O.D.(F) 1354/9).
CUMBERLAND.	To continue as escort for W.S.3 (Slow) to Durban, handing over to CARTHAGE. (D.O.D.(F) 1354/9).
DORSETSHIRE.	May if necessary be used for Red Sea escort of W.S.3 (Fast). (D.O.D.(F) 1354/9).
ULSTER PRINCE.	Sailed from Capetown 0725/9. Route as C.inC. E.I.0812Z/29/9. (N.C.S.O. Capetown 0734B/9).
DROMORE CASTLE. ANDELLE.	Due Durban 5/9 from Cardiff and Freetown respectively, not arrived. (S.O.I Capetown, 1215B/9).
KELT.	After arrival of M.T. Convoy and if not required by you or at Duala, to proceed Lagos, coal, and proceed Freetown. (C.inC.S.A. to 1.C.S. etc. 1809/9).

MOST SECRET.

9.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.(Contd.)

Raider. A raider has been reported in neighbourhood 000° 033° 00' at 1235Z/8. As soon as you have made satisfactory arrangements about TOUAREG at Takoradi proceed I 34 and thence to Freetown to arrive p.m./17 for convoy W.S. 3. CORNWALL on leaving Pointe Noire proceed through position 005° 00' 014° 00' and thence to Freetown to refuel. (C.inC. S.A. 2019N/9 to DORSETSHIRE and CORNWALL).

Mediterranean.

Turkey. Chiefs of Staff agree to attitude of frankness with Turkes and concur in your proposals. (W.O. to C.in C. M.E. 0020/9).

KENT. To be sailed when ready via Cape for final repair in U.K. (D.O.D.(F) 1355/9).

Turkey. Mission arrived 6/10. Message for C.I.G.S. from Gen. Wavell. (C.in C. M.E. 1055/7 recd. from W.O.1750/9).

Movements. RAINBOW, TRUANT, and TRIAD. Convoy L E 21, escort KINGSTON CORAL leaves Alexandria p.m/9 for Port Said 10/10 Haifa 11/10. (C.in C. Med. 1532/9). TRIAD, ROVER, PROTEUS, RAINBOW, REGENT and PARTHIAN. Convoy M.F.3 escorted by COVENTRY, CALCUTTA and 4 destroyers, leaves Alexandria about 1600/8. (C.in C. Med. 2022/8, recd. 1627/10).

Greece. Urging assistance by air to defend Athens against Italians, otherwise Greeks may be discouraged and crumble up. (N.A.Athens, 1201/9).

East Indies.

SHROPSHIRE. My 1124/2. Temporarily attached to Red Sea Force. (C.in C.E.I. 0302Z/9).

Raider. Report. GURNA reported suspicious vessel 01.40 N, 74.00 E. at 1135Z/9. Cancelled message 1356Z. Cancellation was genuine. (C.in C.E.I. 1456Z/9).

A.P.3. Amending N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1530/6 (S.N.O. Red Sea, 0828Z/9).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

U.S. 6.
U.S. 8.

Admty. 1921/5 and A.C.N.B., 0518/8. Prospective sailing date for U.S. 6. Impossible to give decision re availability of shipping for transhipment U.S. 8. (S.S.T.O Bombay, 1333Z/9)

Djibuti

Admty. 2017/4. Letter from French N.A. re transport of surplus French troops Djibuti to Indo-China. (N.A.Madrid, 1851/9)

ORONSAY

In W.S. 3. Intend ship shall join slow group of W.S. 3. fro onward passage from Capetown to Suez so as to avoid her having to replenish at Aden. (C. in C., E.I., 1422/9) Your 1422/9 ORONSAY has not sailed with W.S. 3. Fast due to damage. (D.O.D. (F) 1011/10)

B.S. 6.

Left 9/10 KHAN DALLA, escorted YARRA to join B.S. 6. and to Bombay. (N.O.I.C., Port Sudan, 0835/9)

China

Singapore Conference

Representatives to attend and subjects for discussion. (Chief of Staff tel No 13.) (1st S.L. to C. in Cs China and E.I., 1331/9)

REGENSBURG Raider

German ship REGENSBURG outside Yokohama 27/9 not since heard of. Reported short provisioned but this may be deliberate attempt to mislead, likely intention to refuel and stoke raider. Raider described as similar to UCKERMARK in Admty's 1814/14 may still be in Pacific. C. in C., N.E.I. informed. (Capt O.S. Singapore, 1046Z/9)

Strategical considerations

Re mines, minesweepers and M.T.B's required for various bases. Trade protection Re inclusion of Burma, Andanans and Nicobar Is. in China Station. (C. in C., China, 0743Z/9)

/America.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.1.0.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

French Trade	Suggesting diplomatic action to request U.S. to restrict trade with French West Indies. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1231/9 to Admty)
SAGUENAY MARGAREE	Desired to sail SAGUENAY independently for U.K. as soon as possible after completion of docking on about 14/10. When SAGUENAY's programme is known intend to ask Admiralty to sail MARGAREE to cross SAGUENAY in Western Approaches. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1841/9

MOST SECRET.

9.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

KLAUS SCHOKE	Vice-Consul, Horta, indicates may sail during night 8-9/10. (F.O.C.N.A. 0549/9, to AUSTRALIA, SHEFFIELD and MORETON Bay). Further report indicates likelihood of early sailing. Positions in harbour. (Fayal, Horta, 1145/9 F.O.C.N.A. to ships in N.A. Station, 2138/9.)
REGENSBURG.	Outside Yokohama 27/9, not since heard of - see China Station. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 1046 Z/9).
ANALIESE) ESSBERGER) KUMPERLAND)	Kobe 9/10. Believed sailed. Expect further report. (Capt. O.S., Singapore 0114/10).
KHAKA	Left in ballast for Russia. (Galatz 1011/19)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

SI KIANG	Left 9/10 for Haiphong. (N.C.S.O. Saigon, 07572/9).

MOST SECRET.

9.10.1940.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CONFIELD (torpedoed 8/10). British, 4956 tons. Needs immediate assistance (C.in C. W.A. 1037/9) 56.56 N., 10° W. Fore part under water. 5 crew still on board. Consider no chance of salvage, ship gradually settling. Weather details. (WESTON, 1210/9). OTTAWA to assist (C.in C. W.A. 1213) Cancel my 0950/9. SALVONIA and SEAMAN to assist CONFIELD in 56.48 N., 10.17 W. at 1037 today. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1135/9). Received from Sullom Voe at 1245/9. Oban from A/C X 201 Sqdn., CONFIELD - 549 5 survivors, 525, 56.48 N., 10.17 W. 0950. (Scapa W/T, 1315/9). SALVONIA proceeding, easy speed, strong N.W. gale, SEAMAN returning Campbeltown, engine defect. (SALVONIA, 1230/9). Your 1230, return to Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1525/9). Taken off 5 survivors. Captain reports torpedoed at 2030/8. 35 took to boats. Ship settling, no change of salvage. Intend sinking her, am rejoining convoy. (WESTON, 1330/9 C.in C. W.A., 1459/9). My 1037/9 CONFIELD was torpedoed in this position at 2030/8. (C.in C. W.A. 1617/9).

GRAIGWEN — Torpedoed and sunk 2110/9. (see 10/10)

ZANNIS GOURANIS — " " " "

DELPHIN — Torpedoed 2110/9. (see 10/10).

Have lost touch with enemy submarine submerged enemy's last position was 56° N. 8° W. 3755. Present visibility towards the surface is 2 miles, submarine turning. 1345/9 1400.

Submarines Reported.

0808, 0848, 0943 — 58.04 N., 17° W., say 100' W.N.W. of Rockall, indefinite position (D.S. 400-

1024. — 52.30 N., 17°-19° W., say 300' W. of Loup Head, indefinite position (D.S. 400)

/ 1440 .....

MOST SECRET.

9.10.1940.
Wednesday

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Continued)

1440. Aircraft report, submerged submarine, 56.35 N., 7.05 W., course 360. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1510/9, C.in C. W.A., 1531/9). HORNPIPE, SALVIA and NASTURTIUM proceeding. (WESTERN ISLES, 1735/9)

1550. D.F. bearing indicate U-boat in 58° N., 14° W., to 16° W., may be shadowing you. (C.in C. W.A. to ENCHANTRESS for Commodore (S.C.6), 1550/9).

2040. D.F. at 2040, unknown enemy unit, probably U/B, 56.45 N., 10° W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 2117/9).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian: No information
German: 2 well west of 20degs. W. of which 1 is probably North of 56 degs. 30' N. and the other South of 53 degs.N.
1 about 52 degs. 30' N. 17 degs. - 19 degs. W. at 1024/9.
1 about 58degs. N. 17 degs. W. at 0943/9.
1 North of 56 degs.and East of 11 degs. W. 1 about 100-150 miles Westward of Finisterre. (D.D.I.C. 1346/9.)

(16) X

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

2nd Towns Flotilla

BRIGHTON was delayed today by defects. The remaining four destroyers of the 2nd Towns Flotilla sailed this morning from Belfast for Plymouth.

Dover Shelled

Franzelle battery fired 20 shells at Dover this evening. ALERT, which was straddles, is considered by V.A.Dover to have been the cause of the shelling. No "aval damage occurred.

2nd Town Flotilla

The Town class destroyer ST MARYS was holed by a tug when clearing the Wharf at Belfast about 1200/10.

A/S Vessels

C. in C., Home Fleet again urges that all available A/S ships should be employed on A/S rather than anti-invasion duties. He is convinced that one of the main causes of our lack of success in counter-attacking U-boats is lack of practice by our A/S vessels with a submarine.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command last night attacked Calais, Le Havre, Flushing and docks at Amsterdam and Rotterdam.

Owing to adverse weather Blenheims carried out no operations today.

Coastal Command last night attacked shipping at Boulogne. One of two Swordfish dropped bombs on Dunkirk docks. Both aircraft reported great activity at Cap Gris Nez.

The harbour and destroyers at Brest were attacked by 6 Naval Albacores attached to Coastal Command; it is thought that one destroyer received a direct hit and another two hits, and that oil tanks, hangers, and workshops were hit.

Late this evening aircarft of Coastal Command successfullt bombed the docks at Le Havre and den Helder, also shipping at Lorient, scoring hits on destroyers, buildings workshops and stores.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Lee on Solent Aerodrome is in Service again (See 8/10) St. Merryn Aerodrome was reported serviceable this afternoon (See 9/10)

Dover was bombed three times today, but no damage to naval property occurred.

Very slight naval damage was done at Chatham this morning and again this afternoon

Mining

Enemy Mining

Enemy minelaying aircraft were active last night from Montrose to the Thames Estuary.

Blythe was closed this morning for a few hours. Milford Haven and Tyne were closed this evening. Tees and Hartlepool were closed at 2145 today after being open a few hours.

Further mines were cut and detonated today in the enemy minefield off the south Goodwins.

A.P. Vessel GIRL MARY patrolling Oxcars boom was sunk by explosion at 1635 today.

M.V. TILL a straggler from Convoy FS 4 was damaged this evening in the Thames Estuary, either by a mine or near miss bomb.

British Mining

Five Hampdens last night laid mines in the Lorient area.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

FOUGUEUX (French destroyer) escorting the French merchant vessels CENS and S. ANTONIO passed Gibraltar from west to east at 1140 today; FOUGUEX returned this afternoon, escorting SS FIREZ from east to west.

R.A.F. tonight attacked shipping and pierhead warehouses at Benghazi. Direct hits were scored on 3 ships.

A Blenheim co-operated with Naval and Military forces in operations against mechanised transport concentrations in the Sidi Barrani area.

C. in C., Med. reports the following operations were carried out by units detached.

Operations by Submarines

15/8 OSIRIS sank a transport about 3000 tons in Straits of Otranto. 25/9 TRUANT sank a ship of about 3000 tons off Naples.
28/9 PANDORA sank a ship of 800 tons off Benghazi.

Operations by F.A.A.

Operations by Swordfish aircraft temporarily working from R.A.F. shore base. 21/9 three small ships were attacked near Bardia with doubtful results. 26/9 one F.A.A. aircraft obtained near misses with bombs on ships in Derna. Two torpedo bombing aircraft failed to reach targets at Derna owing to navigational difficulties and extreme range. 29/9 two Swordfish attacked with torpedoes an enemy convoy consisting of two ships, west of Tobruk. Two explosions were seen, followe by a column of smoke from one of the ships.

East Indies

Blenheims attacked targets at Assab today successfully.

MOST SECRET.

10.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals. At 0200/10. (D.C. 0212/10). At 1400/10. (D.C. 1412/10).

Nore Command. Air R/C. unsatisfactory. Keep steam for half hours notice till 0900. (C.in C. Nore 0519/10).

Policy.

Your 1509/8. Difficult situation immediately arises if submarine dives during the time that our ship is endeavouring to pass this signal. The probability of getting it through quickly after first making contact is remote. It therefore seems advisable to explain the situation politely to Vichy Government pointing out that if a submarine believed to be French dives while at a distance from one of our ships it must inevitably be regarded as hostile.
(C.in C. Nore 0932/10 to Adty.)

Efficiency of A/S Escort Ships

ENCHANTRESS 0106/10 and 0108/10. I am convinced that one of the main causes of our lack of success in counter-attacking U-Boats is the low A/S efficiency of the escorting ships which is an inevitable result of their not being given frequent opportunity for practice with a Submarine.

I have been informed by the C.O. of one of the submarines acting as Target Ship at Scapa that the first attempts of various ships carrying out A/S hunting after long periods without such opportunity have from his point of view been contemptible but that efficiency is quickly resotred with practice.

My investigation into the recent damage sustained by FIJI reveals that the only Destroyer sent to attack the U-Boat, namely ANTELOPE, had not carried out an A/S exercise with a submarine since the 16th October 1939 and that in the interim her complete A/S staff had changed.

Unless steps are taken to remedy this situation we cannot expect to avoid heavy losses but the first step is of course to provide the responsible Officers with sufficient escorting ships to enable a proportion of them to carry out A/S exercises. This causes me to re-affirm my opinion that all our available A/S Ships should be employed on A/S rather than anti-invasion duties. (C.in C. H.F. 1406/10 to Adty.)

/ I am .....

HOME COMMANDS

Policy (Continued)

I am in full agreement with the views expressed by C.in C. Home Fleet in his 1406/10. As regards ANTELOPE my records show that she carried out an A/S exercise with a S/M on 27th March shortly before being detached from my command on 16th April.
(C. in C. W.A. 2307/1 to C.in C. H.F.)

FURIOUS
ARGUS

120. Your 1651/8. It is desirable to relieve FURIOUS from Deck Landing Trials as the ship is long overdue for refit and any additional steaming is likely to prejudice her operational value. Conucr in the employment of ARGUS for Deck Landing Trials at Scapa but presume this will not materialise until after the duty referred to in your 1931/4/10.
(C.in C. H.F. 1501/10 to Adty.)

Convoys

For N.C.S.Os. Commodores of Convoys and Masters are to be warned that, unless required to do so by the Examination or Pilot Vessel, ships should not remain stopped in a Prohibited Anchorage or Dangerous Area in the entrance to any U.K. Port.
(D.T.D. 1633/10 to A.I.G.

DAGGER
Patrols

Need not be at sea when DELUGE is three.
(C.in C. Nore 1750/10 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth).

New Recognition.

Your 1321/4. Admiralty cannot concur in these proposals without prior consideration of their effects on Naval air operations, which include night formation flying. There are also technical factors peculiar to Fleet Air Arm to consider. Air Ministry letter quoted does not mention Naval aircraft notwithstanding that six Fleet Air Arm Squadrons are operating from shore bases in United Kingdom besides those in H.M. Ships. Air Ministry Signal A.256 of 10th September was not repeated Admiralty. Naval Staff does not appear to have been associated with origin of these proposals and only correspondence on subject yet traced is in a stores supply context. Consider matter should be discussed at very early meeting of Inter Service Recognition Committee.
(5th S.L. 2036/10 to Air Min.).

/ FIJI .....

MOST SECRET

10.10.1940.
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy. (Continued)

FIJI — Is to form part of 10th C.S. (D.O.D. H. 1012/10 to C.in C. H.F.)

NAPIER) N-class) Destroyers) — Will form 7th Flotilla on commissioning. (D.O.D.H 1630/10).

Movements.

KING GEORGE V. — Due to leave Tyne 1630/17 for Firth of Forth. ETA about 0100/18. To enter basin at Rosyth 1700/18. Precautions against Mines. (V.C.N.S. 0215/10 to C.in C. Rosyth).

HORNPIPE) SALVIA) NASTURTIUM) — My 1735/9. Returned to harbour. (WESTERN ISLES 0215/10 to C.in C. Rosyth).

JERSEY. — Proceed to Sheerness. (C.in C. Nore 1026/10 to JERSEY). Route (C.in C. Nore 2226/10

ARETHUSA. — ETA. Scapa 1530/11. (C.in C. Rosyth 1202/10 to H.Q.F.C.)

WITHERINGTON) VANSITTART) — Sailed at 0745/10 as by your 1331/9. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1205/10 to C.in C. W.A.)

Destroyer for Convoy Work — Your 1021/10 (See Submarines) BULLDOG will be detailed. (C.in C. H.F. 1219/10 to C.in C. Rosyth).

2nd TOWNS Flotilla. — My 1042/9. Sailed BATH, CHARLESTOWN, ST ALBANS. ETA, Plymouth 1600/11. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1230/10 to C.in C. W.A.)

Dover. — Patrols for Night 10/11 if weather moderates. (V.A. Dover 1425/10).

Western Channel. — Night Report. (C.in C. W.A. 1535/10).

Northern Patrol. — Northernmost Trawler Line today. (A.C.O.S. 1536/10).

CHESHIRE — Leaves Clyde P.M./13 for Area C.3. (F.O.C. N.P. 1638/10).

Orkneys — State of A/S Trawlers (A.C.O.S. 1930/10).

MOST SECRET

10.10.1940.
Thursday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations

Operation MEDIUM

Will be carried out at 0330/11. (D.O.D. H. 0731/10 to Air Ministry).

Your 1800/9. Re Aircraft information to C.in C. Plymouth and identification and tactics of escorting Fighters. (C.in C. W.A. 1211/10 to Air Min.).

Amendment No. 1 to Orders. (C.in C. Plymouth 1311/10 to Ships).

Request Fighter protection for 2 Cruisers and 4 Destroyers returning from operation, from daylight till 0800. (C.in C. W.A. 1944/10 to H.Q.F.C.)

Iceland. Jan Mayen Island.

FRIDTH OF NANSEN reports no sign of anyone visiting Ian Mayen. Reserve station liquidated. Met ice limit 071° 45' North 017° 30' West.

Ice prevents visit to (?Scoresby) Sound short (?visibility) heavy North East gale and drifting icebergs prevented visit to Angmassalij. Captain Ullring considers that visit to Angmassalij now onwards unsafe owing to icebergs and short daylight.

Request reply to my 1020/22/9 to Admiralty. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1050/10 to Adty.)

Operation D.N.

(Raid between Skudesnes and Lister). Intend to carry out from 1800/14 to 0730/15 with COSSACK, ZULU, SIKH, MAORI. (C.in C. H.F. 1415/10 to D.4.). Delete ZULU and substitute ASHANTI. (C.in C. H.F. 1129/11 to D.4.).

Operation D.H. (Force D)

C.in C. H.F. 1013/9. Amend as to delivery groups. (B.C.1. 1731/10 to Adty.)

War Office Exercise

Probably beginning 14/10 War Office wishes carry out exercise on lines of WHISKY and BUSTER. Request you co-operate as necessary. (A.C.N.S. H. 1830/10)to C.in C. W.A.)

/ Dover shelled .....

MOST SECRET

10.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS (Continued).

Operations.

Dover shelled. Between 1824 and 1845, 20 shells fired from Batteries at Framzelle. 13 fell in harbour, 3 in Town, and rest outside harbour. ALBERT was straddled. No naval casualties or damage. (V.A. Dover 1951/10 to Adty.).

Operation P.S. EREBUS Will be carried out Night 11/12 or as soon after as weather permits, by EREBUS and spotting Aircraft, 3 Destroyers of 21st D.F. as Escort, and Tug LADY BRASSEY. Bombardment of Dunkirk Dock area. Zero Time 0030/12. Operation orders. (C.in C. Nore 2124/10).

Submarines

TRIDENT To leave Patrol after dark 13/10 and proceed to pass within 30 miles of Ushant. (Capt. S. 2 S/M 1006/10 to TRIDENT).

CLYDE V.A.S. 2147/9 not to Admiralty and V.A.S. 2127/8. WHITE BEAR is not available. Request Home Fleet Destroyer may be detailed observing that it is not considered desirable to include CLYDE in a slow coastal convoy which will be leaving Methil on Saturday 12th October. (C.in C. Rosyth 1021/10 to C.in C. H.F.).

TALISMAN Intend sail from Clyde, escorted by CUTTY SARK, at 0700/12 to 270° Bishops Rock 10 miles. (S. 2. 1459/10 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

CLYDE My 2127/8. Leave Dundee P.M./12 escorted by BULLDOG to Cape Wrath. Route thence. Leave Patrol sunset 30/10, E.T.A. Falmouth 0800/4/11. (V.A.S. 1656/10 to S.9.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0700/11. (V.A.S. 1702/10).

UPRIGHT. In Area D. 4. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1737/10)

Bombing Information My 1126/2. Havre twice and Walvemsoord. (V.A.S. 1836/10).

MOST SECRET.

10.10.1940.
Thursday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity.

Bomber Command. Intelligence Summary No. 472. Summary of Operations etc. (H.Q.B.C. 1831/10).

Attack on destroyers at Brest By 6 Albacores attached to Coastal Command. In the face of intense Flak barrage and ring of searchlights 30/250 lbs GP bombs and 40 incendiaries were dropped in target area. Estimated 1 hit on 1 destroyer 2 on another destroyer with HE and incendiaries on Naval school and workshops adjoining seaplane station. Incendiaries fell on oil tanks to West and South of Naval school.
Aircraft A - overdue action taken at 0220

Had a submarine been on the surface it would have been seen from 3 - 5 miles looking up moon. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 0323/10).

Air R.C. Patrols Unsatisfactory (C.in C. Nore 0537/10). S.A.1.E. and S.A. 2 N. cancelled owing to weather (C.in C. Rosyth 0802/10) W 1 cancelled R.C. of Norwegian Coast 60° N. to Namsos (C.in C. Rosyth 2200/10).

R.N.A.S. aerodromes Lee on Solent now serviceable. St. Merryn unserviceable (Air Min. 1025/10). St.Merryn now serviceable (D.N.A.D. 1633/10).

Rescue work. All A/P vessels and warships to be constantly alert and ready to carry out rescue work (A.C.N.S. (H) 1238/10).

Convoys 3 Hurricanes patrolling over convoys "Clock, Rusty, Draga, Lucca" until dark (C.in C. Rosyth 1814/10).

C. in C. H.F. has requested that as 808 Squadron has had to be withdrawn from Wick area, a squadron or half squadron of Fighters may be moved from Rosyth area to Wick area. (5th S.L. 2044/10 to Air Min.).

Enemy Air Activity.

JERSEY Shadowed by one aircraft in 53° 24' N. 0° 40' W. (JERSEY 1003/10).

St. Merryn. Asking for confirmation whether Dornier which crashed in sea off Seaton was shot down by guns at St. Merryn (St. Merryn 1155/10).

/ ALDERNEY QUEEN ....

MOST SECRET

10.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity (Continued).

ALDERNEY QUEEN. Bombed and machine gunned. Sunk. 1800/9, no casualties. By twin engined monoplane. 51° 38½' N. 5° 23½' W. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1215/10).

Chatham. Damage caused in raid about 0500/10. (Supt. C.E. 1550/10) Damage caused in raid this afternoon (Supt. C.E. 1820/10).

Portland. Air raid damage about 2100/9 (O.C.W. Portland 1600/10).

Enemy Air Activity.

Dover. At 1053/10 enemy aircraft dropped one bomb in harbour, two in sea outside harbour and two near Castle. No damage or casualties. At about 1545 abouttwelve bombs dropped. One in sea outside harbour, remainder in town and outskirts or on military ground. One sergeant marines attached military killed. One military and one civilian wounded. No damage naval property.
(V.A. Dover 1757/10).

At about 1820 three bombs fell near castle (V.A. Dover 1951/10)

Mining.

Blyth. Closed. Suspected minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0705/10 to Adty.). Expect re-open port at about 1400 (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0916/10 to Adty.). Port now open (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1443/10 to Adty.).

B.S.40 Operation postponed 24 hours. (TEVIOT BANK 0714/10 to Adty.)

Tees)
Hartlepool) My 2115/9. Expect to open port by 1730/10. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1042/10. Ports open (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1615/10 to Adty.). Ports closed owing to suspected minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 2145/10 to Adty.).

/ Dover .....

MOST SECRET

10.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Continued)

Dover.	My 1145/8. South Goodwin to number 4 buoy swept one lap by three trawlers not more than 10 per cent. Cut one mine one cable 300 degrees from 4 buoy and two sweeps parted by explosive cutter in same position. Another mine detonated in sweep one cable 206 degrees from 4 buoy. Channel not considered clear. Sweeping stopped by weather. Intend to continue sweeping p.m. today, and a.m. to-morrow Friday as tide and weather permit. (V.A. Dover 1139/10 to C.in C. Nore).
Tyne.	Closed by enemy Minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2013/10 to C.in C. Rosyth).
TILL.	British Motor Vessel, 367 tons. Mined at 2010 when shifting billet in 51° 36.8'N. 1° 12.6' E. Afloat but leaking slowly. Crew in CORNWOOD for night. Request Tug by daylight. (BLACK SWAN 2140/10 to C.in C. Nore) 2 Tugs from Southend being sent now (C.in C. Nore 2329/10 to BLACK SWAN).
Milford Haven.	Port closed. Suspected Magnetic Mines. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2142/10 to Adty.).
GIRL MARY.	At 1635/10 auxiliary patrol vessel GIRL MARY patrolling Oxcars boom sank in four minutes after explosion under the stern in position 255 degrees Inchcolm Monestery 4 cables in 7 fathoms. Vessel was all wood 51 feet long 16 feet beam drawing 6 feet, diesel engines, steaming 7 knots, had been D/G ranged on 14/9 and found safe in 3 fathoms, both polarities. Explosion was loud followed by column of water dirty grey in the centre and clean outside 50-60 feet high, and about 20-30 feet in diameter. Two men were lost, Skipper dangerously wounded and four others including Commanding Officer saved. (C.in C. Rosyth 2307/11 to Adty.).

/Cherbourg .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Continued).

Cherbourg. Preliminary Photographic R/C on 9/10. (D.D.I.C. 1200/10 to C.in C. W.A.).

TIRPITZ. At 1100/10 had left Floating Dock in Scheerhafen at Wilhelmshaven. (P.I.U. 1840/10 to N.I.D.).

Bordeaux) U-Boats and Shipping at 1110/10.
La Rochelle) (P.I.U. 1915/10 to N.I.D.).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Thursday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

ST. MARY'S	Holed by Tug when leaving Wharf. Temporary repairs being made. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1300/10 to C. in C., W.A.)
CLAN CAMPBELL	Boiler defects at Durban (See East Indies)
ACTIVE	2 frames crippled in bottom fore magazine. Plates in vicinity buckled and causing bad leakage. Request return to Clyde. (ACTIVE, 1550/10) Approved (C. in C., W.A., 2151/10)
VERSATILE	Degaussing unsatisfactory. Temporary repairs being done to reach refitting post. (N.O.I.C., Londonderry, 1605/10)
ANADARA STRINDA	Tankers, damaged. A/S Trawler to escort to Milford Haven. (C. in C., W.A., 1837/10)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
HX.77	Meet. (C. in C., W.A., to WESTON, GARDENIA, SHIKARI etc., 0120/10) 23 hours late. (C. in C., W.A., 1450/10 to SHIKARI etc., and 1440/10 to WESTON)
SC.6	To alter coure to avoid U-Boat (C. in C., W.A., 1130/10) Aircraft reports position at 1100/10. (C. in C., W.A., 1250/10) Route. (C. in C., W.A., 1240/10) 3 ships torpedoed (See U-Boat Campaign) Am reforming about 1600, propose detaching WINCHELSEA to Liverpool to land survivors and repair A/S (ENCHANTRESS 1121/10)
WN.23	Admty. 1933/9. Concur. Propose WN 23 should be first 7 knot convoy. (C. in C., W.A. 2010/10)
OL.8 OL.9	My 1950/12/9. Intend OL convoys shall run on a 6 day cycle- dates. (C. in C., W.A., 2020/10)
SC.8	SANDWICH escort delayed by gales. (C. in C., W.A., 1507/10)
EN .	Admty. 1933/9. No reason why all EN convoys should not include 7 knot ships. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1247/10)
HX.	Onward route P (Y), typing error, correction, (D.T.D., 2050/10)
HX.78	Sailing telegram (D.T.D. 2052/10)
HX.81	Route (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1210/10)
HX.79	Route (D.T.D. 1722/10)
OA.277	List (N.C.S.O. Methil 0942/10) Escort ROCHESTER, CAMELIA (N.C.S.C., Methil, 0941/10
OB.229	Route (D.T.D. 1145/10)
HX.76 B	Arrived HELIOTROPE and HEARTSEASE escorting. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool 1731/10)
OB.225	SHIKARI to remain in vicinity (C. in C., W.A., 2000/10)
HG.45	NEURALIA sailed in, 9/10, route. (F.O.C.N.A. 1008/10)
FN & FS	Forecast of sailings and escorts. (C. in C., Rosyth 1651/11)

/O.B. Convoys....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd.	Shipping
OB Convoys.	Experimental night formation when on broad front. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1915/10) Passed to C. in C., W.A., (D.T.D., 1535/11)
Destroyer	For convoy work. (C. in C., Rosyth 1021/10) BULLDOG detached (C. in C., H.F., 1219/10)
	Troop Convoys
W.S. 3.	Your 1422/9 and Admty 2046/7. ORONSAY has not sailed due to damage. (D.O.D. (F) 1011/10
B.A. 54.	Composition. A.C.O.S., to arrange sailing and routeing for Reykjavik. Fighter protection code word OLIVE. (D.O.D. (H) 2045/10)
W.S. 4.	To sail as 2 separate convoys A and B (dates and escort intentions) (D.O.D. (F) 2326/10)
ARUNDEL CASTLE	380 Govt. personnel, to leave Clyde for Takoradi and Capetown (date) (D.O.D. (H) 1831/10)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Thureday

FOREIGN STATIONS

General

Raider

According to Master of HAXBY raider which sank his ship in 31° 30' N., 51° 30' W., on 24/4 and captured TROPIC SEA in 28° 48' S., 166° 04' W on 18/6 is as follows:- (Details) (D.D.I.C., 1912/10)

Operations Against Vichy French

KELT
DELHI
DRAGON

KELT has not made contact with Convoy M.T. DELHI will proceed Lagos. Am sending DRAGON into harbour to transfer sick French man to PRESIDENT HOUDICE and if required collect Commodore of Convoy and staff. Commodore has asked for passage in H.M.ship to Freetown. Instruct DRAGON on arrival. (DELHI to F.O.I.C.S. 0729/10)

TOUAREG

French ship TOUAREG with Vichy deportees detained at Takoradi will sail shortly for Keta with Armed guard. Passengers will be disembarked at Keta and sent to Lome. Armed guard will then take ship with crew to Duala there to be handed over to Governor of Cameroons. European crew are being given a promise of safe conduct and of re-patriation to Vichy Territory if thet desire it. Future of African and Asiatic crews to be decided by free French authorities on arrival at Duala. (C. in C., S.A., 1157N/10) (See also DELHI, South Atlantic)

Dakar

982. A.T. 0027/9/7. Demobilized Reservists report that Dakar incident and recent arrests have set back several free French movements in sympathy. Local situation unchanged. (S.B.N.O., Suez, 1935/10)

French M.Vs

Special intelligence Marseilles. Admiral, Antilles, has ordered all French merchantmen bound east to keep out of sight of Canary Islands. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1147/10)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

RENOWN

Reverts to 12 hours notice from 1200/10. 2400 tons fuel being discharged to enable repairs to bulge to be effected. (S.O. Force H., 0946/10)

NEURALIA Lisbon

Sailed in Convoy H.G. 45, 9/10. Route (F.O.C.N.A., 1008/10) Admty.1300/2. 1093 Gibraltarian evacuees embarked, 600 remained (F.O.C.N.A., 1601/10) Route and expected time of arrival Kingston. (F.O.C.N.A 2012/10)

SHEFFIELD

Admty. 1915/9. Intend leaving Azores Patrol. 2100N/11. Estimated arrive Gibraltar 0700/14. (SHEFFIELD 2359/10) Advising re German ships at large and British ships on passage. (F.O.C.N.A., to SHEFFIELD, 1238/10)

BARHAM

Re Ammunition. (D.T.S.D., 1825/10)

South Atlantic

Suspicious Ship

Admty. 0146/8. and my 2152B/8, confirmed that PAN EUROPE was in position referred to in Admty. 0146/8 at that time. Master stated that he was stopped next day by cruiser presumably NEPTUNE in position 036° 44' S., 022° 18' E., Your 1543/8. BRITISH VISCOUNT was in position 034° 39' S., 027° 46' E., at 0930/7 with nothing insight. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 0927z/10)

DRAGON

Expect to arrive Lagos 0900/11 with Commodor and Staff. (DRAGON, 1407A/10)

DELHI

While at Lagos to contact Commander, Nigeria to discuss defence problems (C. in C., S.A. 1455N/10) To reliev DORSETSHIRE with TOUAREG at Ketah and escort to Duala. (C., in C., 2235N/10)

KENYA

After arrival of W.S. 3. at Freetown, to continue working up in vicinity, Date of return to Scapa. (D.O.D. (H) 1751/10)

CORNWALL

Required to escort W.S. 4 A from U.K. (date) (D.O.D.(F) 1913/10)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Tank Landings

Weights can be off loaded at Port Said and Alexandria. (A/S Alexandria, 0943/10)

Turkish Delagation

Questions on which asking for information (C. in C., Med. 1245/10)

Operations

Reports by detached units just received:-

15/8 (?9) OSIRIS sank one transport of about 3000 tons in Straits of Otranto.

25/9 TRUANT sank ship of about 3,000 tons off Naples.

28/9 PANDORA sank ship of 800 tons off Benghazi.

21/9 Swordfish aircraft attacked 3 small ships Bardia.

26/9 1 F.A.A. aircraft obtained near misses with bombs on ships at Derna.

29/9 2 Swordfish aircraft attacked enemy convoy 2 ships west of Tobruk.
2 explosions seen followed by column of smoke from one ship. (C. in C., Med. 1315/10)

Operation B.S.

Patrol lines for PARTHIAN, OSIRIS, PANDORA (Capt S.I. 1701/10)

Operations "Collar" "Uniform"

Names. If one disguised M.T. ship passed through, COLLAR. If 3 or more ships, UNIFORM. If ARGUS to take part, (My 2240/9 para F) prefix WHITE will be given and operation would WHITE COLLAR or WHITE UNIFORM. (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med. 2344/10)

East Indies

CLAN CAMPBELL

At Durban. Capable only 12 knots, boiler defects. Repairs. Delay at Suez 3 to 4 days (C. in C., E.I., 1448Z/10)

CLAN MACARTHUR

Being sailed from Durban soon as possible. (date of arrival Aden) KANIMBLA will escort to 14° S., when CLAN MACARTHUR will proceed independently (C. in C., E.I., 1448Z/10)

/Native Ratings....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Native Ratings — Will only be engaged on vessels permanently in tropical waters. (D. of S.T. to C. in C., E.I., 2021/10)

MOGAMIGKWA MARU — Ex GETUYO. Left Bushire 2/10 for unknown destination, movements suspicious. Ordered to be sent in (C. in C., E.I., 0802Z/10)

China

U.S. and Kamran — Your 0557/4 (proposed visit) Not desirable at present to make this request to U.S.A. (Hd. of M., to C. in C., China, 1725/10)

America & West Indies

JERVIS BAY, ESPERANCE BAY — To be relieved from North Atlantic trade routes before winter. ESPERENCE BAY to exchange stations with MALOJA forthwith. (D.O.D. (F) 1651/10)

COMORIN, VOLTAIRE — To be relieved from Nortn Atlantic trade routes if opportunity offers. (D.O.D. (F) 1651/10)

Australia

Rescue Boats — Enquiries for. (D.S.V.P. to Melbourne and Wellington 1613/10)

U.S. 5. — Sailed Fremantle 8/10 (Army H.Q., Melbourne to W.O. 2233/10)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Thursday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ANALIESE ESSBERGER) KULMERLAND)	Kobe 9/10. Believed sailed. Expect further report. (Capt O.S., Singapore, 0144/10)
WINNETOU EUROFELD REKUM OSTMARK	At large. (F.C.C.N.A., to SHEFFIELD, 1238/10)
LECH USARAMO BRAKE KARNAK JOHO PESSAO LA PLATA PLUS	Preparing for sailing, Vigo. (V.A.S. to submarines on patrol, Area B. 1837/10) (D.S., 401)
OSSAG	Small tanker, was at Triest on 4/10. (D.S. 401)
REGENSBURG	Left Yokohama 27/9, not sighted since, although only 5 days' provisions (D.S. 401)
NORBURG	Arrived with 3800 tons manganese from Poti. (Galatz. 1105/10)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

TOURAINE (Torpedoed 7/10) — Norwegian, 5811 tons, torpedoed ay 1615/7, not yet known to have sunk. Was a straggle from O.B. 244 Convoy, outward bound from Glasgow for Sydney N.Z. Survivors picked up by DERBYSHIRE. (D.S., 401)

GRAIGWEN — British 3697 tons, torpedoed and sunk 58.11 N., 13. 57 W at 2110/9. (ENCHANTRESS, 0108/10, 1014/10) Convoy S.C. 6. Survivors in WINCHELSEA (D.S. 401)

ZANNES GOUNARIS — Greek 4407 tons, torpedoed and sunk 58.11 N 13.57 W., 2110/9. (ENCHANTRESS, 0108/10. 1 1014/10) Convoy S.C. 6. Survivors in WINCHELSEA (D.S. 401)

DELPHIN — Greek, 3816 tons, torpedoed 58.11 N., 13.57 W at 2110/9. (ENCHANTRESS, 0108/10 1014/10) Tug to be sent (C. in C., W.A., 0311/10) ENGLISHMAN to proceed (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0343/10) Convoy S.C. 6. Survivors in WINCHELSEA (D.S. 401)

Submarines Reported

2110/9 — Enemy submarine reported, 58.11 N., 13.57 W at 2110/9. (C. in C., W.A., 0323/10) (3 ships torpedoed)

1230 — 54.00 N., reliable, 16° to 18° W., unreliable. (C. in C., W.A., 1401/10)

2039 — D.F., unreliable fix, 61° N to 61° 30' N., 11° W ro 14° W., probably homeward bound. (V.A.S. 2234/10)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: No Information
German : 1 in about 44° North 12° West at 1246/9, may arrive Lorient a.m. 11th.
1 in 54° North 17° West at 1210/10.
1 in about 57° 30' North 22° 30' West at 1207/9 may be proceeding E.N.E.
1 in about 56° 45' North 10° West at 2040/9
(D.D.I.C., 1333/10)

(17)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.10.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation "Medium"

REVENGE, escorted by 7 destroyers and 6 M.G.B's bombarded Cherbourg early this morning. NEWCASTLE. EMERALD with 4 destroyers, and CARDIFF with two destroyers acted as covering forces to the westward and eastward respectively during the operation.
R.A.F. cooperated and first started effective fires near the target area. Further fires were started by the bombardment by REVENGE and destroyers. The enemy at first apparently believed that only air attack was taking place, and intensified his Flak. Later 13.5 inch guns opened up and continued fire until the returning ships were 36,000 yards away. The enemy's firing was very accurate but none of our ships sustained damage.

2 German Trawlers sunk by M.T.Bs

About 2335 today M.T.B's 22, 31 and 32 torpedoed two German trawlers in 51° 1' N., 1° 48' E. The trawlers were probably employed in sweeping and as rescue ships for airmen, as the survivors included Air Force personnel.

Convoy C.W. 1. Shelled

Convoy C.W. 1. was shelled intermittently after passing South Goodwin, from 2032 to 2305. Approximately 128 rounds were fired from 3 or 4 batteries on the French coast.

German Destroyers in Channel

It was reported that at 2250 German destroyers (? E Boats) attacked a trawler patrol 10 miles south of St. Catherines. 5th D.F. operating between Dieppe and Havre (see 12/10) were ordered to try to intercept the enemy returning to Cherbourg.

British Air Activity

R.A.F. this evening successfully attacked shipping in Rotterdam. An aircraft on patrol dropped its bombs on Cherbourg at 2220, finding no other targets.

Last night 46 aircraft of Bomber Command successfully attacked the Channel Ports and docks at Amsterdam and Rotterdam, and cooperated in Operation "Medium"
Coast defence guns were also attacked at Henneville. 21 Hampdens also attacked shipyards at Wilhelmshaven, Bremenhaven and Kiel, and one Wellington attacked and set fire to docks at Delfzijl. No hits were

/Claimed.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.10.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity- Contd.

claimed on the TIRPITZ at Wilhelmshaven, but several sticks fell across the Bauhafen. Two large fire were started in the Dockyard at Kiel.

ALYNBANK was slightly damaged by near miss when HX 76A Convoy was bombed off Kinnairds Head at 1935 today. ALYNBANK continued with the convoy.

Convoy S.C. 6. was unsuccessfully attacked 25 miles south of Barra Head this morning.

SS MONKSTONE (867 tons) was damaged by near misses while at anchor off Blakeney last night.

Mining

Operation B.S. 40.

TEVIOT BANK, PLOVER, ICARUS and IMPULSIVE laid mines in the East Coast mine barrier completing the operation at 2358/11.

R.A.F. laid 4 mines off the entrance to the Ems River this evening. 6 Hampdens laid mines last night in the Kiel area and one in ~~Flushing~~ Flensburg Fjord.
3 Swordfish laid mines off Texel and three others off Terschelling.

ZULU
Damaged

ZULU was damaged by a near mine explosion today near Beamer Rock and went into Rosyth for examination.

JERSEY
Damaged
AISHA
Sunk

JERSEY was damaged by a near mine explosion at 1740 today, whilst proceeding for Operation P.S. A second explosion occurred 300 yards astern of JERSEY and 10 yards astern of harbour defence patrol yacht AISHA, which was taken in tow by JERSEY but sank. JERSEY returned to Sheerness. (Operation P.S. was cancelled owing to fog preventing the spotting aircraft from taking off)

THYRA II

(1088 tons) not in convoy, was mined off the Thames Estuary about noon today.

/Several....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.10.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.,

Several ports in the north of England were closed tonight on account of suspected minelaying.

A mine was detonated off Hartlepool shortly after noon, and Tees and Hartlepool were opened at 1830. Later, however, these ports and also Blyth and Seaham were closed owing to suspected minelaying. The Humber and Sunderland were closed tonight.
The Tyne was reopened early this morning after a magnetic mine had been detonated, but was closed again this evening.
Milford Haven was opened at 0936.
Westray, Firth, Orkneys was closed this morning to shipping, owing to suspected minelaying.
The minefield off South Goodwins is now considered clear as regards the Channel.
Another mine was cut a.m. today. Seven explosive cutters were found.

Operations Against Vichy French

It was reported early this morning that PRIMAUGUET left Casablanca yesterday morning fro Dakar, escorting a merchant vessel loaded with torpedoes and shells for RICHELIEU and other French warships at Dakar.

BARHAM and 3 destroyers on passage from Freetown to Gibraltar with 2 transports were ordered to alter course to intercept and shadow, one destroyer remaining with the 2 transports.

AUSTRALIA was ordered to leave Gibraltar and proceed to Las Palmas; she sailed shortly before midnight 11/12 Oct. RENOWN screen by available destroyers was ordered to leave Gibraltar 0500/12 and proceed to the westward.

North Atlantic

SHEFFIELD who replaced AUSTRALIA on Azores Patrol on 9/10 left for Gibraltar this evening.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.10.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

IMPERIAL was mined today off Malta and was docked with damage which it is estimated will take at least 4 months to repair. C. in C., Med. points out that it is not practicable to keep Malta clear with only one proper minesweeper, especially in winter.

6 Blenheims today attacked shipping in Tobruk harbour without success. 66 vessels believed to be M.T.B's were later seen off the harbour entrance. AUCKLAND was bombed early this morning in 15° 51' N., 41° 25' E. No damage is reported.

MOST SECRET.

11.10.1940.
Friday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Employment of A/S vessels

I fully concur with the principle stated in the last para. of C.in C. H.F. 1406/10. Apart from destroyers the only A/S vessels in Nore Command are employed on urgent duty defending convoys against E. Boats. I am quite willing to surrender these as soon as equally efficient or better vessels can replace them. As regards destroyers the number now in Nore Command is little above that needed to compete with current operations, boiler cleaning, routine refits and the recurrent damage by enemy action. Some reduction would certainly be possible when it is decided that invasion is no longer likely.
(C.in C. Nore 1258/11.)

Administration of A/A ships ceased to be carried out from CAIRO p.m. today 11th October. Records transferred to R.A. (D).

0137/4/9. The following are proposed as the new station limits for a Western Approaches Command based on Liverpool and a Plymouth Command based on Plymouth. (D. of L.D. 7800/11).

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"

At 0200/11 (D.C. 0212/11, 0954/11).
At 1400/11 (D.C. 1419/11)

Portsmouth

Repeating C.in C. Portsmouth's 1203/8 (A.C.N.S. (T) 1234/11 to Air Min.)

Orkneys

Request for additional troops for defence of aerodromes (A.C.O.S. 1229/11).

Movements.

Nore

Night dispositions 11/12 (C.in C. Nore 0800/11).

WORCESTERSHIRE

Clyde to Reykjavik escorted by ANTHONY, AMAZON (F.O.C. N.P. 1058/11, N.O.I.C. Glasgow 2029/11) VERITY to R.V. Position. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2241/11)

JERSEY (Operation P.S.)

Asking for fighter cover on passage Sheerness to South Goodwin. (C.in C. Nore 1130/11).

/ TALISMAN .....

MOST SECRET.

11.10.1940.
Friday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS. Movements. (Continued)

TALISMAN	Amending 1459/10 (S.2. 1423/11)
Dover	Patrols night 11/12 (V.A. Dover 1441/11).
Orkneys	Movements tonight (A.C.O.S. 1531/11).
Northern Patrol	Trawler line today (A.C.O.S. 1536/11).
BULOLO	Sail a.m./15 to Clyde thence p.m./16 for Freetown (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1540/11).
DUNEDIN	Sailed for Portsmouth (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1620/11, 2103/11).
Western Channel	Night movements (C.in C. W.A. 1705/11).
BRIGHTON	Ex U.S.A. destroyer. Requesting fighter protection Belfast to Plymouth (C.in C. W.A. 1709/11).

Operations

Forces D, F.	Arrived (C.in C. Portsmouth 0807/11). Force D. H.U. paras. 6, 7. Screen 1 MATABELE with PUNJABI. Screen 2. D.6. in SOMALI with MASHONA, ESKIMO, DUNCAN.
Destroyer Sweep Havre to Dieppe.	JACKAL, JAGUAR, JUPITER, KELVIN, KIPLING sail 1830/11 to carry out sweep along coast between Havre and Dieppe at high speed, returning to Plymouth 0800/12 (C.in C. W.A. 1147/11, C.in C. Portsmouth 1223/11, 1813/11, Capt. S.5. 1701/11).
Operation "Medium"	Description of operation carried out last night (C.in C. Portsmouth 1423/11, C.in C. W.A. 1723/11, 1809/11).
Operation P.S.	4 M.T.B's leave Felixstowe before dark to-day to report whether W buoy C.P.S.C.1006 is lit. To remain north of Calais until 0040/12 then cruise towards Cape Gris Nez. Return to Felixstowe daylight (C.in C. Nore 1210/11). Asking for fighter protection for EREBUS, CAMPBELL, VESPER, CATTISTOCK 1730/11 till dark. Code word "ADAPT" (C.in C. Nore 1246/11.). Sailing of M.T.B's 22, 31, 32, also 14 and 16 to patrol coast East of 2° 40' E. from 2330 to 0230 (BEEHIVE 1530/11). Amendment to 2124/10 (C.in C. Nore 1640/11). Cancel my 1904. EREBUS proceeding. Zero hour 0130/12 (C.in C. Nore 1954/11). (Note. C.in C. Nore 1904 cancelled the operation.)

/ Operation "Lucid" .....

MOST SECRET.

11.10.1940.
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Continued)

Operation "Lucid"

EMPIRE BEAVER now at Plymouth is to be prepared in similar way as WAR BAHADUR as matter of first priority (A.C.N.S.(H) 1902/11).

Patrol B.Y.

C.in C. W.A. 1441/11.

Convoy C.W.1 shelled.

Convoy C.W. 1 shelled intermittently after passing South Goodwin from 2032 to 2305. Rounds fired approximately as follows:- Calais 33 Blanc Nez and Wissant 48 Gris Nez 47 Total 128. No damage observed or reported.
(V.A. Dover 2344/11).

E. boats

Following received from Gorlestone W/T. E.boat signal now becoming weaker suggesting increasing distance from shore. Harwich and Dovercourt confirm this.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2305/11.).

Possible E.boats reported 51° 20' N. 2°13'E. at 2034 course 315. (C.in C. Nore 2310/11 to EREBUS, Capt (D) 21st D.F., WIDGEON, PUFFIN.)

E. boats believed operating in your vicinity.
(C.in C. Nore 2311/11 to MALCOLM, EGLINTON.)

Enemy destroyers in Channel.

Enemy destroyers ten miles south of St. Catherines at 2250 proceed to intercept assume they are returning to Cherbourg.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 2312/11 to JACKAL).

5th D.F. operating between Dieppe and Havre have been ordered to endeavour to intercept enemy returning to Cherbourg. Unless you are in touch with enemy do not operate South of 0500 N.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 2320/11 to VANOC, WITCH).

German destroyers attacked trawler patrol 180° Saint Catherine's 10 miles at 2250. Forces have been detailed to attack.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 2332/11.)

CHASSEURS on L R closing Saint Catherine's.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 2341/11 to VANOC, WITCH).

Enemy vessel off Dungeness.

There are indications of a surface vessel due West of Lydd light float 6½ miles course West speed approximately 5 knots at 2324.
(N.O.I.C. Dover 2343/11 to FERNIE, BERKELEY).

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HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

SEA WOLF SNAPPER	Orders for patrol (Capt. S 3. 0921/11, A.C.O.S. 1521/11).
URSULA, UPRIGHT, UTMOST.	Adty. approval for them to proceed to Mediterranean. Request URSULA be kept back from patrol, to be prepared to sail (date). Re UPRIGHT, UTMOST. (V.A.(S) 1334/11).
TALISMAN TRIDENT	Movements (Capt. S.2 1424/11, 1744/11).
TIGRIS	Orders to leave patrol (Capt. S.2. 1431/11)
Positions and movements.	0700/12 (V.A.S. 1647/11).
Le Havre	My 1126/2 Le Havre (i.e. to be bombed) (V.A. (S) 1648/11 to submarines on patrol).

British Air Activity.

FLEUR DE LYS	Expect fighter escort of 2 Blenheims from 1700 till dark. (C.in C. Rosyth 1304/11).
Rescue work	Naval aircraft are not to be employed on rescue service, except in individual cases of special emergency (5th S.L. 1754/11).
Air Searches	12/10. (Includes R.C. of Norwegian coast Statlandet to Namsos (C.in C. Rosyth 1926/11)
St. Merryn	Serviceable (Air Min. 1100/11)
Yeovilton	Serviceable except in S.W. and N.E. winds (R.A.N.A.S. 1125/11)

Enemy Air Activity.

LATYMER bombed 2/10.	Ultimate fate unknown. Last report received as in my 1240/7 (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1515/11).
H.X. Convoy ALYNBANK	Convoy "JUMBO" attacked in 57° 35'N. 1°30'W. (Lyness W/T 1935/11). No direct hit, no casualties. ALYNBANK damaged by near miss. Slight leaks in hull aft. Request defects taken in hand on arrival with convoy 12/10 (ALYNBANK 2245/11).

/ MONKSTONE .....

MOST SECRET

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Friday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity (Continued).

MONKSTONE — Collier S.S. MONKSTONE whilst anchored off Blakeney night of 10th/11th was attacked by aircraft. No casualties. Damaged by near misses. Returned to Yarmouth for repairs. (C.in C. Nore 1847/11).

Mining.

TILL (mined 10/10) — My 2140/10. Possible this was a near miss bomb (BLACK SWAN 0832/11).

Tyne — Open (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0702/11 0917/11). Ground magnetic detonated 146° North Pier Light 700 ft. by LL at 0657/11 (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0859/11, 1105/11). Port closed owing to suspected minelaying (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2145/11).

Tees and Hartlepool. Blyth Seaham — Mine detonated at 1142, 1 mile P.W.S.S. mine exploded in approx. 54° 32' 30" N. 1° 4' 30" W. at 1210 (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1235/11) Ports of Tees and Hartlepool open (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1830/11) Ports of Blyth, Seaham, Rees and Hartlepool closed owing to suspected minelaying (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2200/11, 2142/11).

Milford Haven. — Port open (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0936/11).

Orkneys. — Westray Firth is closed to shipping owing to suspected minelaying (F.O.C. O.S.1105/11)

Operation B.S.40 — Fighter cover arranged. Code word "Table" (C.in C. Nore 1112/12). Asking for fighter cover for TEVIOT BANK, PLOVER, ICARUS, IMPULSIVE Daylight/12 until arrival at Humber. (C.in C. Nore 1114/11) Operation completed (TEVIOT BANK 2358/11).

Aircraft mining. — Now ample evidence to show that enemy aircraft are dropping mines from a considerable height without parachutes, generally by night. Godd look out to be kept for splashes. (C.in C. Rosyth 115/11)

Dover. — Re minefield near South Goodwins. Channel now considered clear subject to possibility of delay mines coming up. Mines cut today. 7 explosive cutters found. (V.A. Dover 1314/11).

ZULU mined — At 0920/11 a mine exploded about ten yards from starboard side of ZULU 64° Beamer Rock 1.6 cables.
ZULU was rear ship of division of four and

/ was manoeuvring .....

MOST SECRET

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Mining. (Continued)

ZULU mined (Contd.)	was manoeuvring to form astern of guide which was proceeding at 12 knots. Ship has been taken into Rosyth Dockyard Basin for examination. Preliminary survey indicates some machinery defects, leaks in outer bottom in way of after fuel tanks and magazines, bulkheads slightly distorted, etc. no casualties. (C.in C. H.F. 1446/11.)
Sweeping	Warning to vessels to take care to avoid damaging sweeps at night (D.M.S. 1538/11 "A" Mge. Home 87a A 2.)
WALPOLE	Mine detonated today 4 cables green 40 from WALPOLE 196° 1.6 miles East Barrow Beacon. Speed 24 knots. (C.in C. Nore 1709/11).
JERSEY (Operation P.S.)	Damaged by near mine explosion 400 yds. south of East Knot Buoy at 1740. Proceed with operation. (C.in C. Nore 1830/11 to EREBUS, CAMPBELL, VESPER, CATTISTOCK, 2024/11 to C.in C. W.A.).
Sunk area.	Details of sweeping. One German "W" type old mine dragged in sweep (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1912/11).
Humber	Closed to navigation on account of Aircraft minelaying (F.O. Humber 2256/11).
Sunderland	Port closed. Mine reported in Inner Approach Channel. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2339/11).
THYRA II	(mined about 1200/11) Disabled in tow of tugs. Asking for cover, 1430-1800/11. Position at 1400 51° 34' N. 1° 8' E. proceeding to Southend 3½ knots (C.in C. Nore 1420/11).
AISHA sunk.	When JERSEY was in position 2 cables South of East Knob buoy speed 22 knots with yacht AISHA speed 8 knots 300 yards fine on port bow, an explosion occurred this afternoon 30 to 40 yards on port side abreast B gun of JERSEY. JERSEY turned 180 degrees followed by AISHA. A second explosion occurred off Knob buoy 300 yards astern of JERSEY and 10 yards astern of AISHA. JERSEY took AISHA in tow but yacht subsequently sank in approx. 082° 7 cables from East Oaze buoy. Some damage to JERSEY, two minor casualties in AISHA. C.W. 14 consisting of 12 merchant vessels escorted by two destroyers, eight trawlers, six barrage balloon vessels and four motor launches passed over this position two hours previously. AISHA has diesel engines and was going full speed. Two engines each 12 cylinder, 750 revs. (C.in C. Nore 2154/11.).

MOST SECRET

11.10.1940.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence.

Following from Unst. One medium fast vessel bearing 128 degrees distance 23.5 miles course and speed 056 degrees 28 knots.
(A.C.O.S. 0015/11 to SNAPPER).

Enemy Searchlights. — Report has been received from SPEEDWELL that several Officers and reliable Ratings in Minesweepers of Force 'B' (operation LUCID) observed enemy search lights at Calais and Boulogne sweeping the surface of the water during R.A.F. attacks on these ports the night 7/8 October. It is more usual practice for searchlights to be directed upwards during air attack. (C.in C. Nore 1054/11).

Auxiliary Cruiser and Minesweepers — At 1015 one enemy auxiliary cruiser was in 045° 15' N. 001° 50' W. course N.W. and at 1115 unknown number of mine sweepers were in 047° 40' N. 003° 55' W. course south.
(F.O. Submarine 1507/11 to Submarines on patrol).

Deauville — GI/424. Reference My GI/423 T.O.O. 2015/11. The 17 coasters reported in Deauville are seen on closer examination to be North Atlantic fishing Schooners and therefore without invasion significance. (P.I.U. Wembley 2216/11.)

Bergen — P.R.U. sortie 8/10 (P.I.U. 0058/11).

M.V's off Dieppe and Boulogne. — 10 merchant vessels 8 miles off Dieppe course W.S.W. at 1200. 25 merchant vessels off Boulogne course S. at 1220 (F.O. S/M's 1413/11, Capt. S.5. 1433/11 to UPRIGHT, D.D.I.C. 1439/11)

Norwegian coast R.C. — Nothing sighted except the merchant vessels described in Wick 02.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1418/11).

Channel Ports — P.R.U. sorties 11/10 (P.I.U. 2015/11).

Convoys — Re German convoys for Norway. Assembly. Route. (N.A. Stockholm 1732/11).

Kirkenes Ore trade — Report it is to be developed as naval and submarine base. German vessels which were withdrawn from Swedish ore trade in August are now reported to be gradually reappearing in this service at Lulea (N.A. Stockholm 1217/11).

MOST SECRET.

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Friday

War Diary

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

ACTIVE (damaged 10/11).	Your 1550/10 approved to return to Clyde (C.in C. W.A. 2151/10).
IMPERIAL.	See Mediterranean.
GLENIFFER KING NEPTUNE.	U.K. to Capetown due 7/10 not arrived (Capetown 1605 B/11).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys	Shipping.
H.X. 76	Position (C.in C. W.A. 0031/11).
H.X. 76 A.	ALYNBANK to remain with until meeting O.A. 228. (L.A.D. H.F., 1548/11)
S.L. 48 A.	Arrived 2300/10. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0009/11).
F.S. 6.	KERMA to be diverted to Tyne. (C.in C. Rosyth 0835/11).
O.A. 226.	To alter course (C.in C. W.A. 1300/11)
O.B. 226.	" " " " "
F.N. and F.S.	Forecast of sailing and escorts. (C.in C. Rosyth 1651/11).
H.X. 77.	Sighted by U/B (C.in C. W.A. 1259/11 1600/11).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.10.1940
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

PRIMAUGUET

Consul Tangier reports left Casablanca early 10/10 escorting French M.V. to Dakar reported loaded ammunition for RICHELIEU and French warships at Dakar. (F.O.C.N.A., 0016/11) Graded A.3. and passed to C. in C., S.A. Forces H and M (D.D.I.C., 0108/11)

BARHAM

BARHAM and 3 destroyers steer 090° (D.O.D. (F) 1710/11)

RENOWN

Have steam at 4 hours' notice. (D.O.D. (F) 1718/11)
Your 1718. RENOWN can sail 0001/12 with 1200 tons short of fuel or at 0500/12 complete with fuel. Bulge not repaired. 3 destroyers only available screen, remainder defective or escorting convoys. (S.O.Force H., 1911/11)

RENOWN
AUSTRALIA

RENOWN, AUSTRALIA, with necessary screen to proceed to westward. Should be clear of harbour as soon as practicable after 0700/12. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1727/1 to Force H)
AUSTRLAIA to sail as soon as possible and proceed at 25 knots towards Las Palmas. RENOWN to sail at 0500/12 and proceed to westward on course at your discretion. (1st S.L. 2112/11 to F.O.Force H.)
Your 2112. May I be informed of the object. (S.O.Force H., 2305/11)
Your 2305/11. For RENOWN to be clear of Gibraltar in case French bomb Gibraltar as a reprisal. (1st S.L., 0046/12)

BARHAM
to Inter
PRIMAUGUET

0016/11. BARHAM
except PRIMAUGUET
[illegible] that their speed is 10 knots and that they are proceeding by direct route. Transports and remaining destroyer proceed by route already arranged to Gibraltar. (1st S.L., 1732/11 to BARHAM)
My 1732/11. If contact not made, search to be continued to Northward until lat 31° N when course is to be set for Gibraltar keeping not less than 30 miles from the coast.
If met PRIMAUGUET to be shadowed as long as fuel endurance will allow you to reach Gibraltar.
H.M.G. are in communication with Vichy Government regarding return of PRIMAUGUET and M.V. to Casablanca and if possible it is desired that action by you should be deferred until reply.

/You will.....

MOST SECRET

11.10.1940
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

BARHAM
to Intercept
PRIMAUGUET, Contd.

You will receive orders to carry out operation RELEASE or operation ARREST. If RELEASE you will take no action and proceed to Gibraltar. (1st S.L. 2113/11 ro to BARHAM.)

Part 2 of 2113/11.
If you received order ARREST, Inform PRIMAUGUET that discussions are in progress between H.M.G. and French Government, and until these are concluded H.M. G. cannot acquiesce in any action which alters military situation at Dakar.

Believed M.V. in company with PRIMAUGUET is transporting ammunition and torpedoes to Dakar and PRIMAUGUET is to be asked on his word of honour to confirm or deny this.
If he denies this, PRIMAUGUET and M.V. are to be released.
If PRIMAUGUET confirms that M.V. is carrying ammunition you are to inform him that the M.V. must return to Casablanca.
If PRIMAUGUET gives his word that he will escort M.V. to Casablanca accept his word and return to Gibraltar.
If not, enforce your orders using minimum force necessary and continue to escort him until relieved.
(1st S.L. 2238/11 to BARHAM)

DELHI
DRAGON

Your 2237/9. Considered necessary that either DELHI or DRAGON remain temporarily a disposal of C.S.I. to prevent any Vichy reinforcements reaching Libreville, Cruiser not detailed to return to Freetown and will be required to intercept unescorted French merchant ships to or from Dakar. (1st S.L. 0105/11 to C. in C., S.A.) Orders to DRAGON (C. in C., S.A., 1031/11)

Your 0105. Intended DELHI should remain in Duala-Libreville area. She is now proceeding to relieve DORSETSHIRE in neighbourhood of Keta and to escort TOUAREG to Duala. Also DRAGON to Freetown covering route of French merchant shipping on passage and then operating from Freetown. (C. in C., S.A., 1141N/11)
DORSETSHIRE, Patrol area. (DORSETSHIRE, 1430/11)

AUSTRLIA

Admty. 1913/4. Details of patrol maintained. Nothing sighted. (AUSTRALIA 0935/11)

/Spears....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.10.1940
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

Spears Mission

Admty. 1959/10. Major part of Spears Mission is at Duala. Communications. (C. in C., S.A., 1059/11)

Canary Islands

Reported Admiral, Antilles, ordered all French M.V's bound east to keep out of sight of Canary Islands. (D.D.I.C.,1123/11)

WESTERNLAND Spears-Williams Mission

Requesting information of intended movement. (C. in C., S.A., 1105/11)
Your1105N/11 and my 1510Z/11. WESTERNLAND did berth alongside. Had only enough coal to reach Freetown. Mission believed going to Brazzaville. (CORNWALL to C. in C., S.A. 1630Z/11)
Your 1105/11. Spears made no mention of this proposal. Intend movements to be Williams Section now in WESTERNLAND to Brazzaville and Spears Section now at Duala to Brazzaville by (overland?) route. Spears himself accompanying de Gaulle. (C.S.I., 1821/11 to Admty.)
Intend WESTERNLAND shall return to Freetown. (C. in C., S.A., 2015/11 ro Consul-General, Leopoldville)

Libreville Patrol

Admty. 0105/11 and my 0934/11. DEVONSHIRE to establish patrol off Libreville 13/10. (details) COMMANDANT DOMINE and PRESIDENT HOUDUCE will commence patrol off Libreville and Port Gentil 15/10, when DEVONSHIRE must leave to refuel Freetown. (C.S.I., 1841/11 to C. in C., S.A.)

Bathurst

Re defences of. (G.O.C., West Africa, to W.O. 1855/11)

MOST SECRET.

11.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Lisbon — My 1452/8. PORTUGAL and VAE VICTIS sailed for Gibraltar a.m./9. THYS VILLE still held by Portuguese (Lisbon, 1045/11).

ORAO Intercepted — Your 0653/10. ORAO - Jugoslav, 5135 tons - bound for Lisbon from Rio de Janeiro stopped in position 035° 40' N. 012° 15' W. at 2300/11 and sent into Gibraltar with boarding party speed 7 knots she is rather short of coal. (HOTSPUR, 2305/11 to F.O.C. N.A.)

NEURALIA — My 1601/10 (numbers embarked). Colonial authority now reports only 400 remaining. (F.O.C. N.A. 1625/11).

South Atlantic.

CARNARVON CASTLE — Your 1523/25. Requires 4 days at 24 hours notice for inspection of cylinders. Request this on her return to Simonstown a.m./12. N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1045 B/11).

CERES. — Arrived escorting K.D.1. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1854 Z/11).

COLONIAL — Portuguese, F.309 tons. Endeavour to intercept. (C.in C. S.A. to FAULKNOR 1037 N/11).

ENTERPRISE — Request be retained on station after return of HAWKINS for minimum of 14 days. (Cdre., S.A.D., 1212 Z/5, received 1817/11).

GLENIFFER. KING NEPTUNE. — Both from U.K. due Capetown 7/10 not arrived. (Capetown 1605 B/11).

WIFUNEN — S.O.(I) Montevideo's 1903/1. S.S. WIFUNEN was boarded at sea 4/10 and thoroughly searched. Nothing suspicious found. Log showed ship was aground near Martin Garcia from 0930/25 to 0245 27/9. Five men signed on in Montevideo (corrupt groups). (QUEEN OF BERMUDA 0910/11).

Mediterranean.

Malta. — My 2344/10. Asking if can arrange for transport of personnel from Egypt in H.M. Ships with "Collar" or "Uniform", and whether M.T. can be transported. 1 S.L. to C.in C. Med., 0041/11) Reply, Yes. (C.in C. Med., 1726/11).

M.B.6. — Position of Fleet and course. (C.in C. Med., to N.O.I.C. Malta 1105/11).

/ IMPERIAL .....

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Continued)

IMPERIAL mined — IMPERIAL struck mine 15 m. S. of Delimara in 150 fathoms. Stresses recent request for mine sweepers. (C.in C. Med., 1156/11). Details of damage (N.O.I.C. Malta1915/11).

Enemy Intelligence — Received by Athens. Italian cargo ship passed Corfu S.E. 0545/10 G.M.T. Six to ten ships unspecified passed Anti-Paxi Island N., 0430/W. G.M.T. (C.O.I.S., to Med. Fleet, 1230/11).

Aicraft reports 1 capital ship and 2 merchant ships 360° Benghazi Harbour at 1200/11. (Capt. S.1 to RORQUAL 1510/11) Vessel is not capital ship, type unknown (Capt. S.1, to RORQUAL 2156/11).

RORQUAL — To leave patrol at 2300/13. Route. (Capt. S.1, 1701/11).

Convoy M.F. 4. — Route. (N.O.I.C. Malta, to Submarines on patrol, 1709/11).

Defence Mining. — Your 1959/3 and Admty. 1803/4. Re supply of mines. Instructions for installing defence by oil fire can also be sent. (D.of L.D. toN.O.I.C. Malta 1821/11).

Convoy A.S.4. — Date of assembly and route. 6 ships. 7th C.S. may be detached to provide cover. (C.in C. Med. 2305/11).

East Indies.

Assab Raids. — Summary No.121 for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 11/10. 1 Blenheim 8 Squadron reconnoitred Assab for night port activities 1815, 10/11. No lights no activity seen, bombed main pier, results not observed. 1 Blenheim 8 Squadron photographic reconnaissance Assab harbour and shipping 0315. 4 vessels 5000-ton seen vicinity Fatma Island. (Not new arrivals). Standing Fighter Patrol Aden 9 Gladiators 94 Squadron 0330 to 1200. 1 Blenheim 8 Squadron reconnaissance Berbera - Laferug - Zeila landing grounds 1200 to 1245. No aircraft seen. 3 Blenheim 4's 203 Squadron fighter escort convoy S.W. 0330 1400.

Convoy Escort. — 3 Blenheim 4's 203 Squadron fighter escort convoy B.S.6. from 0340. Blast aircraft remaining Kamaran. 2 unidentified E.A. attacked AUCKLAND 50 miles west

AUCKLAND attacked.

/ Kamaran .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.10.1940
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

AUCKLAND
Attacked, Contd.

Kameran 0645. Fighter escort gave chase but unable to close. No damage.
7 Vincemts 8 Squadron continued punitive bombing Quteibis during day. All times G.M.T. No damage, no casulaties. (A.H.Q., Aden, recd. 0020/12) (Amended 1856/12)

U.S. 5 A
U.S. 8

Re escorts (C. in C., E.I., 1326Z/11 to Admty.)

AUCKLAND
Bombed

AUCKLAND bombed at 0640Z/11 in 15.51 N., 41. 25 E., no report of damage received. (C. in C., E.I., 1514Z/11)

Command

Admty. 0406/11 (See China) my views are embodied in para 5 (IX) of C. in C., China's 0743/9. (C. in C., E.I. 1914Z/11)

Lourenco Marques

Fourfold increase in number of Greek ships calling Lourenco Marques. Asking if trade to and from Madagascar can be treated as contraband. (C. in C., E.I., 1058Z/11)

GNAT

To be prepared for passage to Alexandria Arrangements. (C. in C., E.I., 1328Z/11)

B.N. 6½

DEVONSHIRE, RANEE, PUNDIT, escorted by PARRAMATTA sailed 1800Z. Route and times. (N.O.I.C., Port Sudan, 1805Z/11)

China

M. de Schompre

Message from Gen. de Gaulle, re his employment. (Hd. of M. to F.O.C.R.I.N., 1509/11)

Cocos Island

Admty. 1414/7. DANAE visited early July. Suggested force for shore defence. (C. in C., China 0545/11)

Command

Requesting views on question of command may be signalled in advance of appreciation called for in A.T. 1415/26/8. (Hd. of M., to C. in C., China, 0406/11)

Indo-China

Report from Duncan, Saigon, 10/10. Vichy influence increasing, etc., (S.O.C., Malaya 1144/11)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.10.1940
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Suspicious Ship

Q.Q.Q.Q.49 34 N 35 15 W.,AMAKURA unknown ship closing me rapidly from astern, 1135/11 de G.C.K. (Valentia Radio 1138/11)

Q.Q.Q.Q.55 R 05 N 24 R 02 W. SERINGA unknown vessel closing (de G.C.K. T.O.R., 1145/10) (Lands End Radio T.O.R. 1145/10)

SERINGA reports suspicious vessel approaching her in 55 05 24 W at 1155 investigate. (C. in C., W.A., 1200/11 to CIRCASSIA)

Q.Q.Q.Q. 49 R 34 N. 35 R 15 W. AMAKURA. Unknown ship closing me rapidly from astern 1135/11. (Valentia Radio, T.O.R. 1255/1)
Note Position given above is correct position.

SERINGA reports suspicious vessel approaching her in 055° 05' N., 024° 02' W at 1135. Is this you, if not, investigate. (C. in C., W.A., 1331/11 ro RANPURA)

For SS AMAKURA only. Your 1135/11 Request further report of unknown ship. (D.D.I.C. 1624/11 to G.B.M.S. One)

Your 1331/11. My position 1600 G.M.T. 057° 08' N., 031° 17' W. Should arrive in position about noon tomorrow Saturday. (RANPURA 1640/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

Cancel my 1331/11. Proceed in execution of previous orders. (C. in C., W.A., 2347/11 to RANPURA)

Town Class Destroyers

To avoid congestion while fuelling at St. John's (N.F.) intend to sail available TOWN class destroyers in two groups. Expected dates. Machinery defects in ROXBOROUGH are very serious and ship is unlikely to be ready to sail before last group. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1541/11)

QUEEN ELIZABETH...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.10.1940
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West I-dies,Contd.

QUEEN ELIZABETH	New York Press report of fitting as troop ship. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1135/11)
HAZOZAKI MARU	Admty. 1352/8. Ship was released (Your 1828/8) and sailed for New York on 9/10. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1632Z/11)
CARADOC	To arrive St. Lucia and Antigua (dates) with or before U.S. ship ST LOUIS as convenient. Arrange berths mutually. Fuel from SAN ADOLFO at Antigua. Inform me if ST. LOUIS alters programme. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1041/11)

Australia

Vichy Repatriations	Re repatriation of 132 French citizens of Vichy Govt. sympathy from Noumea to Indo-China. (A.C.N.B., to D. of S.T., 0228Z/11)

MOST SECRET

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Friday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

YALOVA LARISSA }	Arrived with Manganese ore Poti. (Macrae, Galatz, 1132/11)
LUVSEE	Sighted off Split going N. 8/10. Expected Zelenika for bauxite after discharge of present load at Trieste. (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1247/11)
HANNOVER	My 0952/12/9. 16 seamen ex-HANNOVER left San Domingo 10/10 by car for Port au Prince. (S.O.I. Kingston, 0954/11)
LUISE BORNHOFEN	My 1145/9 LUISE BORNHOFEN now at anchor and buoy between Portuguese sloop GONCALVES ZAROO and breakwater 20 feet from latter. Arrived 11/10 Portuguese sloop CARVALHO ARANJO now anchored at Northern end inner harbour. (V.C. Horta, 1705/11)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.10.1940
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

DELPHIN (Torpedoed 9/10) — Lost touch during night when 5 miles off and drifting towards Rockall. Searched since daylight, no success. Consider sunk. (HASTINGS, 1230/11) Search continuing with tugs. Consider definitely sunk. (H (HASTINGS, 1915/11)

EMMA BAKKE — Norwegian 4721 ons. Torpedoed 57.02 N., 17.24 W., (Lyness W/T, 2000/11) SALVONIA and ENGLISHMAN to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2123/11)

EMPIRE AUDACITY — British 5725 tons. Attacked 57.12 N., 17.03 W., 2240/11 (Valentia Radio, 2245/11)

Submarines Reported

0029 — D.F., U-Boat between 58° and 59° N., 15° and 19° W., at 0029/11 (C. in C., W.A., 0203/11)

1205 — Submarine reported by RUNA GAL look out, conning tower awash, proceeding N., 115. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, from WESTERN ISLES/11)

1220 — D.F. fix in approx 56°-57° N., 20° W., at 1220 indicates U/B has sighted HX 77. (C. in C., W.A., 1259/11) Destroyers to sweep (C. in C., W.A., 1600/11)

1330 — Sunderland reports submarine diving 020° Sule Skerry 16 at 1330. PUNJABI investigati (MATEBELE, 1359/11 to A.C.O.S.) (C. in C., Rosyth, 1528/11) Amend position to 58.21 N 4.14 W., (C. in C., Rosyth, 1630/11)

SOMALI, DUNCAN, ESKIMO, continuing search for U-Boat until further orders. Aircraft from Hatston will be working towards Fair Island Channel on assumption U-Boat is homeward bound. Be prepared to act on observations from Fair Island and Sunboroug A.E.S. which will be passed to you.
MATEBEL, PUNJABI, rejoin Oiler MONTENOL.
(R.A.D. H.F., 1735/11 to D.6)
Unless in contact return Scapa by noon/12
(R.A.D. H.F., to D.6, 2215/11)

/Estimated....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.10.1940
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: 9 in Bordeaux on 10th no information of those at sea.

German: 8 in Lorient on 9th, and 1 may arrive today.
1 in about 50° N and West of 20° W.
1 in vicinity of 57° N., 20° W at 1221/11.
1 in Vicinity of Rockall.
1 probably N. of 56° N and East of 11° W
1 in about 60° N., 11° W., at 2040/10, homewards.
(D.D.I.C. 1343/11)

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MOST SECRET.

12.10.1940.
Saturday

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Sweep by 5th D.F. E. boats engaged.

JACKAL, JAGUAR, JUPITER, KELVIN and KIPLING last night carried out a sweep off the French coast. Early this morning while returning to Plymouth JACKAL, which was leading, engaged 2 enemy small craft, about 30 miles North of Cherbourg, but soon lost contact. It appears probable that enemy E. boats were operating last night at points in the western part of the Channel.
CLYDE sailed from Dundee today for patrol in the Atlantic between 20° W. and 25° W.

British Air Activity.

Adverse weather caused a number of operations last night by Bomber Command to be cancelled. However, aircraft attacked Channel ports and targets at Wilhelmshaven, Kiel, Bremerhaven and Wesermunde. Although bursts were seen in the target areas and fires and explosions were caused, no outstanding results were observed.
Coastal Command aircraft last night successfully bombed shipping and dry docks at Rotterdam, targets at the Hook and Cherbourg.
Seven merchant vessels were attacked this morning 51 miles N.W. of Trondheim, but detailed results were not observed. A merchant vessel was machine gunned 39 miles 255° from Namsos.

Enemy Air Activity.

Damage was done at Thames Ammunition Works at Erith this evening.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy E.boat last night is suspected off Harwich and to the northward. Several mines were cut or exploded off Harwich today.
H.M.T. RESOLVO was damaged by a heavy under water explosion in the Thames Approaches at 2030 today and was beached.
EREBUS reports 5 explosions in the Thames Approaches this evening. The first explosion was a mine, but the other four, which were close together may have been caused by mines or bombs.

State of Ports

Humber. Opened 0910. Closed 2153.
Tees, Hartlepool. Opened 1614.
Seaham. Closed 1256.
Blyth. Closed 1256. Opened 1405.
Sunderland. Closed 1256. Opened

R.A.F. minelaying.

R.A.F. last night laid mines the Elbe, and in and near Hub

MOST SECRET.

12.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Operations against Vichy French.

In order to intercept shipping proceeding to Dakar the Admiralty have suggested that certain patrol lines should be instituted.

North Atlantic.

S.S. STARLING was bombed and machine gunned off Cadiz this morning.

Mediterranean.

Operation M B 6.

C.in C. Mediterranean reports that during the passage of the Fleet and Convoy M F 3 to Malta little air activity took place. Aircraft reported Italian U-boats south of Crete, and one was heavily depth charged by destroyers.
Thunderstorms prevented air raids on Malta whilst the destroyers, COVENTRY, CALCUTTA and RAMILIES were refuelling on 11/10. IMPERIAL was mined but was brought into harbour. Convoy M F 3 arrived at 1600/11, and Convoy M F 4 sailed after dark for Alexandria.
During the nights 11/10 and 12/10 AJAX was in action with enemy T.B's and reported sinking two. A Sunderland flying boat sighted 2 destroyers about 100 miles East of Malta at 0630, one of which was damaged and on fire; these were probably the T.B's reported by AJAX. The damaged destroyer, ~~of DARDO or later~~ ARTIGLIERE YORK class, was sunk by ~~units of the Fleet~~, but the other destroyer escaped.

Air Attack on Benghazi

R.A.F. last night successfully attacked Benghazi. Shipping at Tobruk was attacked yesterday, a large ship being hit.

East Indies.

KIMBERLEY on Perim Patrol was bombed this afternoon. No damage is reported.

In view of the urgent requirements for fleet minesweepers at Malta HUNTLY and DERBY are to be sailed to the Mediterranean. There are 7 other ships in the Red Sea and Aden fitted for sweeping moored mines.

R.A.F. attacked Bardia, Derna and Tobruk today; at Tobruk bursts were seen amongst shipping in harbour.

MOST SECRET.

12.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals. At 0200/12 (D.C.P.156/12).

Nore Command. Air reconnaissance unsatisfactory. Keep steam at half an hours notice till 0900/12. (C.in C. Nore 0611/12).

Policy.

BERWICK. AUSTRALIA. Your 1655/11 and 1914/9. Unless political reasons to contrary I recommend that AUSTRALIA joins Mediterranean Fleet rather than BERWICK. This would render it unnecessary to carry out the more important A and A's required if H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA remains in Home Waters. H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA should however be docked for examination of A brackets vide your 0125/6/8 also for repairs to fore peak, during which time blanking of lower deck scuttling should be carried out. The relief to home repair yard thus affected would be very advantageous. In this case I would suggest that H.M.S. BERWICK joins Force H if this is still required or alternatively carries out the duties in your 2326/10/10. Might I suggest that if in matters such as this affecting ships of my command I was consulted beforehand, I might be able to give helpful advice.
(C.in C. Home Fleet. 1825/12 to 1st S.L.)

Movements. (1).

Western Channel Patrol. My 0117. VANOC and WITCH are proceeding to 50° N. 2° W. Do not proceed East of 2° 30'W. If nothing sighted return to harbour by 0730.
(C.in C. W.A. 0139/12 to BROKE, WANDERER, BURZA, GARLAND) BURZA and GARLAND are not sailing. BROKE and WANDERER proceed when ready. (C.in C.W.A. 0209/12 to BROKE).

KING GEORGE V. C.in C. Rosyth's 1601/11. Approved. Act accordingly. (V.C.N.S. 1230/12 to C.in C. Rosyth and H.F.) Following working-up programme proposed. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1316/12 to C.in C. H.F.)
Your 1316/12. My information is that B turret is unlikely to be completed before 19th November. In view of chance of changes in war situation, what weather may be like, what destroyers will be available etc. I consider it would be better to postpone consideration of this matter for a month whem surely it could be left to me.
(C.in C. H.F. 2121/12 to Admty.)
Cancel A.T.1316/12 (1st S.L. 0217/13 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

12.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (1). (Cond).

DUNEDIN. Request fighter protection 0630/12 till dark from 53° 15'N. 5° 25'W. to Portsmouth. Expected time of arrival 0700/13. (C.in C. W.A. 0329/12 to H.Q.F.C.)

CHESHIRE. Leaves Clyde 1300/13. Route to Area C3. (F.O.C.N.P. 1100/12 to CHESHIRE).

CLEVELAND. On conclusion of practices proceed with despatch to Fair Island Channel. (R.A.D. H.F. 1136/12 to CLEVELAND).

Yarmouth. Disposition of Water Taxis at 1200/12. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1150/12 to Admty.)

Nore. Dispositions for Night 12/13. (C.in C. Nore 1200/12).

Scapa. Arrivals and Departures. (A.C.O.S. 1213/12.)

Dover. Patrols for night 12/13. (V.A. Dover 1347/12

Movements. (2).

ARGUS. Your 1501/10. (Deck Landing Trials). Last paragraph confirmed. Further signal will be made as to date when Ship available. (5th S.L. 1503/12 to C.in C. H.F.) Your 2035/11. Expected ready to sail p.m. 18/10. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1803/12 to Admty.

Western Channel. Movements for night 12/13. (C.in C.W.A. 1535/12 and 1945/12).

Northern Patrol. Trawler Lines on 12/10. (A.C.O.S.1536/12).

VERSATILE. Proceed to Tyne forthwith for refit. (C.in C. H.F. 1555/12 to VERSATILE).

Portsmouth Command. Movements for night 12/13. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1607/12).

Anti-Invasion Patrol. VANOC, FERNIE, BERKELEY and VOLUNTEER will be on patrol between longitude Anvil Point and Owers, entering QZS 169 at 0600/13 (C.in C. Portsmouth 1853/12 to DUNEDIN) My 1607/12. Ships will be on patrol J.C.Wes (C.in C. Portsmouth 1857/12 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

12.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.(1).

Operations PS (EREBUS).

Cancel operation PS.
Aircraft fogbound. (C.in C. Nore 0050/12 to EREBUS). Keep in South half of QZS.170. (C.in C. Nore 0659/12 to EREBUS).
Operation PS will be carried out tonight, weather permitting. If possible, decision will be made by 1300. (C.in C. Nore 1000/12 to EREBUS).
Operation PS will not take place tonight. (C.in C. Nore 1216/12 to F.O. Harwich).

M.T.B's on Belgian Coast.

Available 70 foot M.T.B's are to operate on Belgian Coast between Nieuport and Flushir attacking any vessel seen without challenge. Report M.T.B's detailed and time of sailing. (C.in C. Nore 1216/12 to F.O. Harwich).
Owing to defects in M.T.B. 32, operation of M.T.B's is cancelled. (C.in C. Nore 1649 to Admty.)

M.T.B's sink trawlers.

M.T.B's 22, 31 and 32 arrived Dover at 0110 with 34 survivors of two German trawlers, which they had torpedoed in 51° 02' N., 1° 48' E. at about 2335/11. Trawlers probably employed sweeping and also as rescue ships from airmen as the survivors include Air Forc personnel. M.T.B's were probably mistaken for 'E' boats as only one round was fired by trawlers and that only after first vessel was torpedoed. Request no announcement be made in press of the sinking of these trawlers so that their loss may be attributed by Germans to the minefield in vicinity and so as not to betray the presence of M.T.B's. If not given away this success may be repeated.
M.T.B's will sail for Felixstowe at 0600/12. (V.A. Dover 0331/12 to Admty).

Operations. (2).

Force D.

HOOD is to sail p.m/15 to give cover to Force D. If necessary, screen for FURIOUS phase 2 may be reduced to 3 destroyers. B.C.1 pass by secret hand message to BERWICK and FURIOUS. (C.in C. H.F. 1057/12 to B.C.1). Orders to SEAWOLF. See Submarines.

Straits of Dover Patrol.

M.T.B's 70, 69 and 5 will leave Dover at 2130/12 to operate between W Buoy at about 51 10'N., 2 6'E. and latitude of Boulogne, returning at daylight 13th.
(V.A. Dover 1406/12 to Admty).

Patrol Q.

Cancel Patrol tonight. (C.in C. Nore 1502/12 to D.21).

MOST SECRET.

12.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (2).(Contd.)

Iceland. Withdrawal of Walrus A/C.

Your 1654/9. The short daylight hours and uncertain weather conditions in Iceland during winter do not justify leaving Walrus Squadron there. They can be more usefully employed elsewhere. The Squadron will be fetched by ARGUS, date of whose arrival will be signalled later. Request you inform Alabaster and report estimated time required to embark Squadron as an evolution. (5th S.L. 1504/12 to F.O. Iceland).

Start Point A/S Trawler Patrol.

Patrol BY. (C.in C. W.A. 1529/12 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

ATALANTA.

Netlayer. Newhaven to Pevensey and return. Request fighter protection 0700 to 1200/13. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1718/12 to H.Q.F.C.)

Operations. (3).

Enemy off St. Catherines. (See 11/10).

VANOC take VOLUNTEER, FERNIE, BERKELEY under his orders and sail at 1830 and proceed by Q.Z.S. 111 and 169 and patrol along line of L,M and C Patrols to position 180° Anvil Point 10 miles. Return so as to reach end of Eastern Channel at 0600. Renewal of attack by enemy torpedo craft and/or E-boats on our patrol lines is possible. Patrol craft have been withdrawn except for patrol of Eastern and Western Channels. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1757/12 to VANOC).

Operation MEDIUM. Damage at Cherbourg.

Impossible to analyse damage except by very detailed examination. Compared with W.115 of 9/10 there is a reduction of one in number of T.B's in Petite Rade and of one in the Bassins. One other probably badly damaged and possibly another. Except for a few small craft Bassin Charles is empty. Not more than two M.Class minesweepers compared with seven in W.115 can be seen. Two or three E.boats are visible compared with ten. Dry docks and repair slips in Bassin Napoleon damaged. A vessel moored alongside the Gare Maritime is heavily on fire with black smoke rising. A fire is still burning from the Entrepot to the East of the inner Harbour. Colonial Infantry Barracks by outer Harbour probably severely damaged. Direct hit obtained on main Seaplane Base at Chantereyne.
(P.R.U.St. Eval 1800/12 to H. Q.C.C.)

MOST SECRET.

12.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.
Operations. (3)(Contd.)

Operation D.N. (Skudesnes to Lister).	My 1415/10. Subject to favourable weather, operation D.N. will be advanced 24 hours, so subhead A should read 13/10. (C.in C. H.F. 1841/12 to D.4, SIKH, MAORI, ASHANTI). (Proceed tomorrow 13th, so as to pass Oxcars at 0900. (C.in C. H.F. 2155/12 to D.4).
	Submarines.
WILK.	Proceed to patrol near 58° 10' N. 4° 40'E. (Capt. S.3 0859/12 to WILK.)
CLYDE.	Leaves Dundee p.m./12 escorted by BULLDOG till arrival Cape Wrath about 1500/13. Route thence. Surface ships not to attack doubtful submarines 20 miles either side of following line between following times, nor A/C to bomb submarines in same areas and times. (A.C.O.S. 0956/12).
M.43.	Exercising in Plymouth Submarine area. (C.in C. W.A. 1505/12).
M.34.	Exercising in Scapa Flow a.m. and p.m./12. (A.C.O.S. 1609/12).
SEAWOLF.	On arrival at position 061° 000° 01' SEAWOLF is to proceed submerged by day to patrol off Fro Havet to Eastward of Halten arriving there by daylight/16. Force D consisting of H.M.S. FURIOUS H.M.S. BERWICK H.M.S. NORFOLK and destroyers will be near 071° 015° on night 15/16. Object of SEAWOLF to attack enemy warships that may be in Trondhjem should they proceed to sea to intercept Force D. (V.A.S. 1653/12 to SEAWOLF).
Positions.	For following 24 hours at 0700/13. (V.A.S.1657/12).
Greenock Area.	Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1705/12).
L.27 UPRIGHT.	Movements. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1813/12).
Notice of [redacted].	My 1126/2. Lorient. (V.A.S.1914/12 to TRIDENT).

MOST SECRET.

12.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

E Boats.

Portland. One E Boat. My position 235° Portland Bill 20 miles. (DANEMAN 0032/12).
E-Boat 160° Portland Bill at 0040. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0050/12).
E-Boat reported in 50° 21'N. 2° 53'W. at 0032 and gun flashes reported to W. of this previously. Investigate. Line BY is patrolled by A/S Trawler. (C.in C. W.A. 0117/12 to BROKE, BURZA, WANDERER, GARLAND)

2 unknown vessels bearing 330° 3 miles course 260. My position 280° 50° N., 1° W. 27 miles. (JACKAL 0244/12 to C.in C. Portsmouth) Have engaged 2 fast Enemy Small Craft but have lost contact. (JACKAL 0314/12 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Off Fecamp. 8 E-Boats were off Fecamp at 1130/12. (UPRIGHT 0130/12).

British Air Activity.

Antwerp. 2 Wellingtons attacked Docks during night 10/11. Large fires started. (B.C.Summary 477).

S.A.1E. Patrol cancelled. (C.in C. Rosyth 0914/12).

Off Trondheim. Aircraft attacked 3 M/V's at 0943 and 1002/12. Near misses and smoke observed. (Donibristle 1452/12 to Admty).

Lorient. To be attacked tonight. Targets. (H.Q.C.C. 1510/12 to 16 Group).

Rosyth Area. Air Search for 13/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 1840/12).

Bristol Channel. Balloon Barrage Vessels. My 2326/18/7 and 1644/8/8. Expected dates of completion of allocated Vessels. (D. of L.D. 1947/12).

Sheep Island Anchorage. My 1950/8. Anchorage North of Sheep Island. R.A.F. inform me that flying boats would be forced alight and take off in the middle of Firth of Lorne thereby losing all shelter provided by Kerrera Island against winds between S.E. and S.W. This would delay operational flying and frequently make take off impossible owing to rough sea. This additional anchorage is therefore not considered available. (C.in C. W.A. 2000/12 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

12.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Portsmouth. At 2152/11 several Incendiary Bombs dropped in Elson and Frater area. No damage or casualties. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0138/12).

Sheerness. Time lost owing to air raid warning amounts to five hours since 0700/5. No damage or casualties sustained and no appreciable interference has resulted affecting Naval supply production or repair at Sheerness. At 2150/8 two bombs fell and exploded within the anti-aircraft establishment Bartons Point. No substantial damage and no casualties.
(Cdre. i/c Sheerness 1208/12 to Admty).

Liverpool. Details of damage by Air-raid 11/10. (SCE.Liverpool 1756/12 to C.E. in C.)

Convoy. Bacon. One aircraft shadowing in 50° 34'N., 0° 43' W. Course W, speed 7 knots. (FERNIE 1030/12

North Sea. German Naval A/C active over North Sea between 53° 30'N and 56° N. since 2008/12. This activity by Naval aircraft is most unusual. (D.D.I.C. 2200/12 to C.in C. H.F, Rosyth, Nore).
German Naval Aircraft activity developing from 54° 20'N. 2° 30' E. First observation 2008/12. Any such movement most unusual. (C.in C. Rosyth 2251/12 to Ships.)

Mining. (1).

East Coast. From Special Intelligence and Flares observed it appears certain that E-Boats have been engaged in minelaying operations off Harwich and to the Northward. Reports of flares indicate that E-Boats were in a position approximately midway between N.E. Gunfleet and Sunk Head and also near Shipwash. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0021/12 to C.in C. Nore).

RESOLVO. (H.M.Trawler). Damaged by heavy under water explosion 30 yards astern of ship in position 6 cables 083° from Knot Bell Buoy at 2030/12. Ship steaming 063° at 7 knots not sweeping. Now beached south of outer Bar Buoy. Crew all saved, two cot cases not serious and some minor casualties.
(C.in C. Nore. 0605/13 to Admty).

Humber. Open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 0910/12)

S.N.100. Completed. (RAML. 1042/12 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

12.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (1)(Contd.)

Trawler LL Trials. — Your 1532/9. Concur with proposals. (D.T.M. 1206/12 to VERNON).

Tees Hartlepool. — My 2045/11. Expect to open Ports by 1700/12. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1215/12 to Admty). Ports are open. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1614/12 to Admty).
EREBUS reports explosion occurred 1 point 5 cables on starboard beam between East knob and Knock John buoys at 2013/11. Four more explosions occurred within 5 seconds at 2051/11 when EREBUS was in position 327° point 5 miles from South Edinburgh No. 2 buoy. Bearing and distance of explosions from South Edinburgh No.2 buoy 298° point 85 miles, 314° point 48 miles, 127° point 54 miles, 75° point 78 miles. CAMPBELL VESPER CATTISTOCK in company. First of four explosions was one nearest EREBUS. Black smoke. No flash. Clear moonlight night: No aircraft seen or heard: no damage.

It seems inconclusive from evidence whether explosions at 2051 were caused by mines or bombs.
(C.in C. Nore. 1255/12 to Admty.)

Mining (2).

Blyth. Seaham. Sunderland. — Closed. (C.in C. Rosyth. 1256/12 to BLACK SWAN).

Blyth. — My 2142/11. Blyth open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1405/12 to Admty).

Sunderland. — Port re-opened. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 1540/12)

ZULU. — My1446/11 (Explosion). ZULU was using type 573 Echo Sounding Gear. Ships ahead of her were not. (C.in C. H.F. 1634/12 to Admty).

14 M/S Trawlers, off Falmouth. — Request Fighter protection from 1300 to 1830/13 in 50° 8'N., 5° 1'30"W. to 49° 55'N., 5° 12'W. and return. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1846/12 to C.in C. W.A).

Harwich. — 'O' Sweep 148 Q.Z.S. Trawlers cut 2 German mines, one in 52° 01.2'N., 01° 45.3' E; one in 52° 03'N, 01° 44.8' E.
One exploded in sweep in 51° 59.6' N., 01° 44.5'E. One dragged in sweep, sighted and sunk in 52° 07.9'N., 01° 53'E.
Paddle Sweepers in 148 Q.Z.S. report 2 mines exploded in 51° 59.7' 01° 44.4' E. Also one underwater heavy explosion no apparent cause in 52° 03'N., 01° 44.4'E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2006/12 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

12.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining (2). (Contd.)

Humber. Closed, owing to Mines laid by aircraft. (F.O. Humber 2153/12 to Admty).

Enemy Intelligence.

Boulogne. My 1439/11. M/V's reported off Boulogne, at 1220/11 were barges and Towing Craft; and about 6 minesweepers escorted by one probable E-Boat 7 miles to S.W. (D.D.I.C. 0215/12 to C's in C.)

Brest. 7 Destroyers can be seen. (P.R.U. St.Eval 1530/12 to H.Q.C.C.)

Ushant. 4 large M/V's between Ushant and mainland steering south at 1115/12. (V.A.S. 1719/12).

Tromso. Finnish S.S. KASTELHOLM released by Germans after detention at Tromso reports that she was boarded by large Armed Trawler on passage out only 3 hours out of Petsamo and also inspected by Germans on passage back about 30 miles from Vardo. There appear to be no warships at Tromso but there is considerable activity on the part of Norwegian vessels of which a number are being sent to and from Spitzbergen. (Petsamo 1759/12 to D.N.I.)

Norwegian Coast. W/T Traffic suggests a movement of German Naval Units from Northern Norway southwards, to the Skagerak. These units may be as far south as Trondheim this evening and may include destroyers or larger ships. (D.D.I.C.2002/12 to C.in C. H.F.)

Ijmuiden. Tholen Island. Shipping observed during night 10/11. (H.Q.C.C. 0041/12).

Technical.

Aircraft Depth Charge Attacks. Following are recommendations for these attacks. Depth-settings, height, speed, etc (5th S.L. 2035/12. Admty.R.Message 164R).

Anti-E-Boat H.E. Barrage. Time fuzed H.E. barrage is in progress of development in Home Fleet as an anti-E-Boat offensive. Progress to date is promising and a well placed barrage creates a spectacular effect in the water. The best method of operating this form of barrage is still under development. The requirements being to position the barrage at ranges varying from 1500 to 5000 yards and for the shells to burst at a height of about 100 feet from the water. (C.in C. H.F. 1121/12 and 1756/12 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

12.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

ALYNBANK. On arrival of Convoy proceed to Rosyth, for examination of damage. (R.A.D. H.F. 0244/12 to ALYNBANK)

MAURETANIA. Defects have developed in two Boilers. Estimated time of repair 2 months. Can steam 21 knots on remaining four Boilers. Intend sail her with U.S.6. which now sails from Sydney 20/10. (N.B. Melbourne 0707 Z/12 to D. of S.T.)

SCYTHE. Tug. Your 1105/12. Unable leave Hayle today owing to weather and inefficient state of Boilers. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1538/12 to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

12.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping.
H.X. 77	Dispersed at 2340/11. SHIKARI endeavour to reform at daylight. (A.C.W.A. 0213/12) If not in company with convoy report whether my 1600/11 was passed to commodore. (C.in C. W.A. 1000/12). LADY LILIAN to join (C.in C. W.A. 2303/12). U.boat possible shadowing (C.in C. W.A. 1309/12).
O.A. 228.	Position (FOWEY 2300/12) Escorts FOWEY, BLUEBELL (N.C.S.O. Methil 0810/12).
S.L. 49.	FANDANGO to meet 0745/13, position (ANTELOPE, 2021/12)
F.S. 7.	Numbers from Tyne, Blyth, etc. (C.in C. Rosyth to LONDONDERRY, VIVIEN, 1921/12).
F.N. 6.	Blyth, Seaham, Tees, Hartlepool, Sunderland closed. 3 ships in F.N.6 should be diverted to Tyne. (C.in C. Rosyth 1256/12).
W.N. 22.	Position (CAMPANULA, 1800/12) Petrol carrier PETROBUS to join (C.in C. W.A. 2250/12).
O.B.M. 228-229.	Dates. Escorts ARSENAL and ROSEMARY. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1831/12)
F.S.6.	4th M/S. F. to sweep through dangerous portion of Q.Z.S. 148. VETERAN and WILD SWAN to join. (C.in C. Nore, 1550/12)
F.S. 8.	Will leave Methil 0030/13. Close escort VEGA, VIMIERA (C.in C. Rosyth 0950/12).
O.L. 7.	Sailing Liverpool a.m./13. Escorts. HIGHLANDER, HAVELOCK from Liverpool, HURRICANE, KEPPEL from Clyde, OTTAWA, SARDONYX from Lough Foyle (C.in C. W.A. 0957/12).
Dartmouth.	Intended sailings and escorts. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1054/12, 1501/12, 1522/12) sailed. (1945/12).
BOUVET II.	A.C.O.S. 1745/11. Intend sailing for Scapa 1600/12. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0915/12).
Troop Convoys	
ALMANZORA.	Clyde, to be used for troop movement. (D. of S.T., 2345/12).
ANTONIA.	Liverpool, to be used for troop movement. (D. of S.T., 2345/12).
Darkening Ship.	Importance of. (D.O.D. (F) 2153/12).

MOST SECRET

12.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French.

Libreville Patrol.

My 1841/11. Intend KELT to join Libreville Patrol after coaling Duala 12/10. (C.S.1. 0020/12).

My 1841/11. Join me in position A at 0600 zone - 1 on 15/10. KELT will be in vicinity of position B, 280° 10 miles from A. (C.S.1 to DELHI, 0955 A/12).

PRIMAUGUET

If PRIMAUGUET met, report position, course and speed and for how many hours you can shadow. (D.C. to BARHAM, 1018/12)

AUSTRALIA

To join BARHAM. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1701/12)

BARHAM.

Position course and speed at 1900 Z. (BARHAM to AUSTRALIA, 1830/12).

Admiralty. Repeated C.in C. South Atlantic. Admty 0105/11. De Gaulle enthusiastically received in Cameroons. Believe De Gaulle considers best interest of his cause demands avoidance, at almost any cost, of armed conflict against Vichy force in Gabon. He intends to use his air force, when ready, mainly for R.C. and an attempt to force Vichy naval force to withdraw from Libreville and Port Gentil by threat of bombing. He realizes need for quick action against Libreville but appears to be content to rely on effect of Naval measures and reported shortage of food in Libreville to complete its capitulation. Most of his influential supporters in Gabon have been arrested. He readily agreed to use of Free French ships for next 3 weeks for patrol off Libreville and parts of Gentil. He places great reliance on moral effect to be produced by his cruisers though it is impracticable these can reach Gabon front for several weeks. Not considered that early results can be expected from offensive policy, furthermore greater naval forces than are likely to be available would be required to make effective the virtual blockade of Libreville upon which De Gaulle appears to rely. Meanwhile action as in my 1841/11 is being taken.
(C.S. 1, 0200/12 to Adty.)

/Communications .....

MOST SECRET.

12.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French (Continued).

Communications. Submit you will note that cables from Freetown to Duala are sent over land lines in order to avoid Vichy Territory and are sometimes subject to delay.
(C.in C. S.A. 1047/12, to F.O. I.C.S.)

Free French Naval Forces Have received from General de Gaulle requests concerning establishment of a Naval Base at Pointe Noire also the dispatch to Free French Equatorial Africa of warships and personnel. Consider that an exchange of views between the First Sea Lord and myself should take place. Requested that following officers attend.
(A.C. Free French N.F. 1630/12 to Admty.)

My 0105/11 para. 2. Realised not practicable to establish a blockade of Dakar with forces available, but important to intercept as much shipping as possible. Stoppage of imports (which are more likely to be unescorted) may affect local inhabitants to detriment of Vichy Government and so enhance cause for De Gaulle. Suggested that alternative patrol lines about 100 miles in length be established:-
(A) Southwards from a position 80 miles East of Porta Praya.
(B) North Eastwards from a position 60 miles East of Bonavista.
(C) Eastwards from a position 60 miles from Northern extremity of (B)
Policy laid down in your 1957/5 para. (c) is concurred in except that at present escorted merchant ships are not to be interfered with (D.O.D. (F) 1849/12 to C.in C. S.A.).

MOST SECRET.

12.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

STARLING Bombed — W. by S. to Cadiz. STARLING bombed and machine gunned. (Gibraltar Radio, 0939/12)

Raider report — Admty. 0941/12 passed to you for information (see America and W. Indies). Position given in raider report was 49.34 N. 35.15 W. (F.O.C. N.A. 2305/12 to KENYA, PRETORIA CASTLE).

Lisbon. — Reported motor yacht VICTORIOSO loaded for Morocco expected to sail 11/10. Motor luggers AMPHITRITE, PRIMEIRO also fully loaded same destination sailing about 12/10. (Lisbon, 1616/12).

FIREDRAKE GREYHOUND — Your 1600/12. It appears WISHART has dealt with ORAO. (see U-Boat CAMPAIGN). Unless S.O. Force H can add to this information, join GREYHOUND escorting 2 transports during daylight 13/10. (F.O.C.N.A. to FIREDRAKE, 2202/12).

STARLING — My (?1252) 12. Following information from Cadiz. S.S. STARLING has now reached Cadiz with damaged steering gear and other superficial damage. Aircraft which attacked her was a four engined bomber believed to be Italian and reported by Spanish fisherman as having identification marks underneath consisting of black cross inside circle, but no other details were observed. Attack was made in position 3.5 miles from Cadiz, aircraft approaching ship from landward, finally making off in southerly direction. Casualties sustained five killed and seven wounded, one seriously. My 1915 gives names of casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1912/12.)

South Atlantic.

CANTON CARNARVON CASTLE — Your 1055 B/11 approved. Sail CANTON 14/10 and CARNARVON CASTLE on completion to comply with my 1157/11. (C.in C. S.A. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0105/12).

Route from Clyde to Freetown. (C.in C. W.A. 1651/12).

Aircraft Base. — My 1837/9. If work in connection with (a) Flying Boats Base and (b) Accommodation and operation of bomber aircraft is approved, consider this work and accommodation and operation of an air fighter squadron should take precedence of work for establishment of Fleet Air Arm maintenance unit already approved.
(C.in C. S.A. 0219/12 to Admty.)

/ DORSETSHIRE .....

MOST SECRET

12.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Continued)

DORSETSHIRE
Lagos

Director of Nigeria Marine in reply to message asking if DORSETSHIRE class cruiser had visited Lagos and could fuel there states DORSETSHIRE has visited and could fuel from oiler at Maria buoy.
R F A LUCIGEN draught 24 feet 5 inches loaded.
(C.in C. S.A. 1921/12 to F.O.I.C.S.)

DRAGON
CASANARE

CORNWALL's 1846/12. Am in company with CASANARE. She reported DORSETSHIRE.
She is all well bound to Victoria.
Am proceeding. Position. (DRAGON 1945/12)

Convoy S L 52.

R.V. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1439/12).

Mediterranean

Two Enemy Cruisers position 035° 50' 016° 25' course unknown at 0306.
(Capt. S. 1 0351/12 to Submarines on patrol).

URSULA)
UPRIGHT)
UTMOST)

Decided to send to Mediterranean. Date for URSULA. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1335/12).

PANDORA

Orders for patrol. (Capt. S. 1, 1421/12).

Minesweepers.

Admty. 1232/1 and C.in C. Med. 1156/11.
In view of urgent requirement for fleet minesweepers, Malta, HUNTLY and DERBY are to be sailed to Mediterranean.
(D.M.S. 1836/12).

Operations
M.B.6.

Following information received of current Fleet operations. During passage of Mediterranean Fleet and Convoy M F three to Malta from 8/10 to 11/10 little enemy air activity. Some Italian U-Boats were reported by aircraft to S.W. of Crete and one was heavily depth charged by Destroyers.

Refuelling of Destroyers, COVENTRY CALCUTTA and RAMILLIES carried out in Grand harbour during 11/10 without interruption. Thunderstorms prevented air raids. IMPERIAL was mined but was brought into harbour. Convoy M F 4 consisting of VOLO, Oiler PLUMLEAF, and APHIS sailed after dark for Alexandria. During night of 11/10 and 12/10 AJAX was in action with enemy torpedo boats and reported sinking two. A Sunderland Flying boat sighted 2 Destroyers about 100 miles E. of Malta at 0630 one of which was damaged and on fire. These

were /

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation M.B.6. (Contd.)

These were probably the torpedo boats reported by AJAX. The damaged destroyer DARDO or later class was sunk by units of Fleet. Other destroyer chased but escaped to northwards. At 1100 same flying boat sighted three FIUME Class Cruisers and three enemy destroyers escorted by Fighter aircraft in N.E. position 65 miles of Malta, appeared to be making for Tripoli (Africa No. 830 Squadron (F.A.A.) Striking Force despatched from Hal Far at 1300 failed to locate target.
(V.A. Malta, 2015/12).

East Indies.

GLIMMAREN. Admty. 1351/11. Mauritius reports Swedish GLIMMAREN completed loading mica and graphite for New York but proposes calling Bombay and Basra. Ordered by New York to cancel call Cochin (C.in C. E.I. 0746Z/12).

ULSTER PRINCE. My 1804/6. Date of arrival Aden. To join A.P.3½ for onward passage to Suez. (C.in C. E.I. 0602Z/12).

Dutch Ships, Reunion. Your 0547/22 para.3. Chief censer Mauritius reports K P M Agent Reunion in reply to cable from Head Office Batavia early in September telegraphed 1/10 Dutch ships may call at Reunion subject to previous authority of local Government, application be made for each occasion. This appears at variance with ruling given by Dutch C.in C.
(C.in C.E.I. 0744Z/12 to C.in C. China).

KIMBERLEY. Bombed. KIMBERLEY on Perim patrol bombed at 1345Z/12. No damage reported.
(C.in C. E.I. 1502/Z/12.
Summary No.122 for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 12/10. 2 Blenheims and 2 Vincents 8 Squadron continued punitive bombing Qutaibis during day. 3 Blenheims 203 Squadron fighter escort to convoy B S 61 remaining Kamaran overnight 4 Gladiators 94 Squadron standing fighter patrol singl; Aden 0750 to 1110. KIMBERLEY on Perim patrol reports bombing attack 3 miles off Perim 1345, all times G.M.T. no casualties. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1856/12).

MOST SECRET

12.10.1940
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies- Contd.

Red Sea Dhows

My 0616/1. ELWAFI has returned to 'Aden but Kamaran business traffic to Massowa has not ceased nor has traffic to Assab. Governor of Aden being asked now to warn Imam accordingly, and if Governor agrees intend taking action against Dhows as from 17/10. (C. in C., E.I., 1734Z/12)

DEVONSHIRE
RANEE
PUNDIT

Movements (N.O.I.C., Port Sudan, 0535Z/12)

China

De Gaulle Movements

Your 1036/1. Pending full appreciation of situation, Indo China, H.M.G. do not intend to take any action in support of either of General Martin or of a local de Gaulle movement in Indo China. (Hd. of M., to C. in C., China, 1519/12)

America & West Indies

Raider Report

See 11/10. Vessel sighted starboard quarter hull down steaming parallel with Commodore of Convoy altered towards me and over-taking. After sending message altered course about 4 points crossed my stern and went out of sight on port and northward steering about south 10 east true painted grey buff funnel amidships about 5,000 tons gross. (AMAKURA 0150/12 to Adty.)

Re her raider report at 1225/11 AMAKURA now states that unknown ship passed under her stern without hostile action and was last seen steering about 170 degrees. (D.D.I.C., 0941/12 to C. in C., A.W.I., etc.)

Your 1200/11. Thorough search carried out nothing sighted now proceeding patrol area. (CIRCASSIA, 2000/12, to C. in C., W.A.)

Lights of Ships
West Coast
America

Proposal that British and Allied Merchant ships should burn navigation lights at full brilliancy and proceed undarkened while on normal coastal route on west coast of America has been under consideration. On these routes a raider, should one appear, is not likely to attack shipping indiscriminately and it would, therefore be an advantage if British and Allied shipping were not made conspicuous by being darkened. Request Admty's view. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1302/12)

/Assisting....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

Assisting Ships Attacked

Reference D.M.S. part one para 4. In view of ships now being sunk on high seas many miles distant from waters covered by coasting and patrol craft it is suggested absolute prohibition against proceeding to assistance in such cases be reconsidered. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1143/12 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.10.1940
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

EISENACH	Port Limon reports she is believed to have enough coal bunkers for 3 days' sailing (S.O. (I) Kingston, Jamaica, 1158/12)
SPEZIA	Consul, Valencia, reports finished loading and steam up. (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1203/12)
SCHARNHORST	Reported by Standard Oil Co., to have loaded to capacity with oil fuel. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 1345Z/12)
HANNOVER	Seamen ex HANNOVER left San Domingo for Port au Prince today. (S.O. (I) 2050/12)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.10.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

ANTONIOS CHANDRIS

N.C.S.O., Rio de Janeiro reports Portuguese ship SERPA PINTO which left St. Vincent C.V. 4/10, due Rio de Janeiro 13/10 picked up on 7/10 22 of crew of Greek Ship ANTONIOS CHANDRIS stated to have been torpedoed.
Source of information Greek Consul Rio de Janeiro. Ship originally reported as TONIS CHANDRIS since corrected, but no information that ANTONIOS CHANDRIS is in SouthvAtlantic.
Estimated position of rescued 001° N., 030° W. (C. in C., S.A., 1148/12)

ORAO

Yugoslav, 5755 tons. Am being shadowed by submarine, my position at 1430, 35.43 N., 10.20 W., (ORAO 1424/12) Crew deserted ship am being fired on. (ORAO, 1455/12) ORAO proceeding Gibraltar with armed guard from HOTSPUR reports crew have deserted ship and are being fired on (position) F.O.C.N.A., 1600/12) Have detached destroyers to close ORAO and hunt 35.43 N., 10.20 W., rejoining at 0800/13. (S.O.Force H., 1640/12 to C. in C., S.A.,) Attacked by German submarine 45 miles S.W. of Portimao Algarve. (N.C.S.O. 2010/12)

CAPE BARRACOUTA
Escaped

Reports unsuccessfully attacked by submarine 36.50 N., 10° W., at 0800/12. (F.O.C.N.A., 1603/1653/12)

PACIFIC RANGER

British, 6865 tons. Torpedoed 56.20 N., 11.43 W., at 1919/12. SUPERMAN and SEAMAN ordered to assist. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1931/12)

Submarines Reported

0955 — 30 North of Rockall Rock, submarine sighted EXPLORER. (Scapa, 0955/12)

0800 — 36.50 N., 10° W A.F. meaage, from Admiral, Gibraltar. (Gibraltar, W/T, 1209/12)

1212 — D.F., U-Boat betweem 56° and 57°, 26° and 17° W., pmsibly shadowing HX 77 (C. in C., W.A., 1309/12) (D.D.I.C., 1322/12)

1222 — D.F., U-Boat in 56° 20' N., 11° 20' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1309/12) (D.D.I.C., 1322/12

/Weather Reports..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.10.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Weather Reports

When ships report sighting submarines not in immediate vicinity of the coast it should be of the greatest assistance to R.A.F. in deciding whether it is practicable to send aircraft to hunt if ship were to make a brief weather report (C. in C., Rosyth, 1920/12)

~~2~~ 19

MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Raid on A/S trawlers 11/10.

During the raid by enemy light craft on trawlers on 11/10 A/S trawlers LISTRAC and WARWICK DEEPING were sunk. Two French chasseurs 06 and 07 are also missing.

M.T.B. patrol.

3 M.T.B's last night carried out a patrol in the Straits of Dover.

British Air Activity.

R.A.F. last night attacked Channel ports and Dortmund-Ems Canal.
Reconnaissance of the Norwegian fiords from Statdlandet to south of Kristiansand was carried out between 1145 and 1305.

Enemy Air Activity.

A fire was caused late this evening at the Naval Depot at Hull.

Minings.

R.A.F. last night laid mines in the St. Nazaire and Lorient area.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night was apparent from the Humber to Farne Island, and was also reported in the areas from Portland to the Needles, Selsey Bill to Coquet Island, and from North Foreland to Southwold.
7 Mines were found today in the Dover Straits, and 2 exploded near destroyers proceeding in the Thames Approaches.
Owing to mines in the Medway, traffic is using Thames gate.
The Humber was opened this morning but was closed from Spurn Point to Chequer Shoal buoy this evening. A mine was exploded this morning.
Westray Firth, Orkneys, was reopened this morning.
DANUBE XXI (Examination vessel) was mined and sunk off Sheerness this morning. Yacht JANETHA IV was damaged by near mine explosions whilst proceeding to rescue survivors, but returned to harbour.
SUMMER ROSE (M/S Drifter) was mined and sunk off Sunderland today.

MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

S.S. ANTONIOS CHANDRIS (Greek 5865 tons) on passage from Cardiff to Buenos Aires is reported sunk by an enemy raider at 8/9 600 miles W.S.W. of Cape Verde Is. The master and 21 of the crew were picked up by S.S. SERPA PINTO (Portuguese) and landed at Rio de Janeiro today. Another boat with 11 men is missing.
FAULKNOR, FURY, FORESTER and FORESIGHT left Freetown this evening for Gibraltar.

Mediterranean.

VIDO mined — It is reported that the S.S. VIDO (Yugo Slavian) which left Istanbul 4/10 for Braila with jute on British account for Belgrade, has been mined and sunk off the mouth of the Danube.

FRANCO FASSIO torpedoed — It is reported from Spain that the Italian S.S. FRANCO FASSIO was torpedoed and sunk off Savona several days ago.

Bombardment of Sidi Barrani — Between 0230 and 0310 today LADYBIRD bombarded Italian positions at Sidi Barrani, assisted by one Bombay aircraft.

Tobruk bombed — Military and naval buildings along the north foreshore of Tobruk harbour were bombed by R.A.F. this evening.
The defences appeared to be taken by surprise.

F.A.A. attack Port Lago — About 2300 today F.A.A. successfully attacked Port Lago (Dodecanese).

East Indies.

The Dutch tanker SWARTEN HONDT reported this morning that she was being attacked by an enemy raider about 420 miles E.N.E. of Durban.
She cancelled her distress signal at 1842/13. S.S. DAHLIA reported sighting a suspicious vessel in approximately the same position at 0600/13. KANIMBLA has been ordered to proceed to cover shipping.

Perim was attacked from the air three times yesterday and today, but no damage or casualties were caused.
Aden was bombed today.

MOST SECRET

13.10.1940
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

CYCLAMEN — Is allocated to Liverpool Corvette Division (C. in C., W.A., 1041/13 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

Shoot at sight is I am convinced the only practical policy for our patrol vessels. LISTRAC was challenging when first shells hit her and the two chasseurs probably had similar experiences. But in conditions of low visibility these patrol vessels may be off their station and encounter friends. Therefore, I intend to operate the patrol vessels in groups instead of singly, one group covering lines F.G.H. one lines L.M.C. and one group lines D.E. when visibility is low or no recent air reconnaissance of enemy ports or when reports of activity in enemy ports is received. These groups will patrol at highest practical speed and will shoot at sight. This will leave gaps but is considered the better policy. Intend also to use 4th M.A./S.B. flotilla when trained for Anti-E-Boat sweeps. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1303/13 to Adty.)

Holland and Italy — Although Netherlands Govt. have not declared war on Italy, they have ordered Dutch Warshi to attack any Italian Raider at sight. Head of M. 1711/13 to C. in C., H.F.)

Lorient / Bordeaux — Propose Bomber Command be asked to attack concentrations of U-Boats in Lorient and Bordeaux. (C. in C., W.A., 1839/13 to Adty.)

DUNCAN
FAME
FEARLESS
FOXHOUND — Propose these ships join 13th Flotilla as 25th Division leaving U.K. about 18/10 and relieving INGLEFIELD, ECHO, ESCAPADE, ECLIPSE and FORESIGHT who would return to U.K. for repairs. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.A., H. 1859/13 to C. in C., H.F.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals — At 0200/13. (D.C. 0214/13) At 1400/13. (D.C. 1431/13)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.10.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

ANTHONY VERITY	Detach in time to meet HX 78, 31 ships unescorted, at 1600/14 in 60° N., 20° 43' W Route. (C. in C., W.A., 1140/13 to WORCESTERSHIRE)
KING GEORGE V	Adty. 0215/10 and 1230/12. Request you arrange for sweeping of channels at junction of QZS 176 as far as 21 Buoy. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1145/13 to F.O. Tyne) Presume that Air Protection is being arranged by Adty. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1910/13 to Adty.)
BERWICK	Intend passing through G at 1510/13, course 014°, speed 18.5 knots. (BERWICK 1224/13 to NORFOLK, PUNJABI, MATEBELE) Met NORFOLK, PUNJABI, MATEBELE at 1750 in 63° 35' N., 3° 39' W. and passed your position, course and speed. (Capt. D.6. 2359/13 to BERWICK)
DUNCAN ESKIMO	Expect arrive 0900/14. (DUNCAN 1544/13 to F.O.C.O.S.)
CHESHIRE	Sailed as by F.O.C.N.P's 1100/12. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1345/13 to Adty.)
Portsmouth	Movements for night 13/14. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1517/13)
Orkneys	Movements for night 13/14 (A.C.O.S., 1531/13
Western Channel	Night Report (C. in C., W.A., 1625/13 and 1855/13)
EGLINGTON WIVERN WORCESTER	Sailed from Harwich 1821/13. (F.O.I.C., 1831/13 to Adty.)
Rosyth Area	Movements for night 13/14. (C. in C., Rosyth 1934/13)
WESTON	My position 57° 18' N., 7° 1' W., course 185°, speed 12 knots. (WESTON 1940/13 to C. in C., W.A.) Position at 2144/13 (WESTON 2144/13 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET

13.10.1940
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

M.T.B. Patrol — My 1406/12. M.T.B's 70,69, 5 carried out patrol (V.A.Dover 0736/13)

Operation D.N. — (Skudenes to Lister) My 1841/12. Confirmed that operation is advanced 24 hours. Fighter protection Code Word REBEL. (C. in C., H.F., 0957/13 to Adty.)

Dover Patrol — 3 Destroyers from Sheerness are to be prepared to carry out Dover Patrol between Nos. 1 and 10 Buoys tonight. (C. in C., Nore, 1048/13 to D. 21) Ships sail from Sheerness 1615 and pass South Goodwin at 2000. (C. in C., Nore, 1134/13 to D. 21)

M.T.B's on Belgian Coast — 70 foot M.T.B's to operate between Nieuport and Flushing tonight, and 60 foot M.T.B's between Thornton Ridge and Ijmuiden, returning at daylight 14th. Care to be taken that units do not meet. Any vessel met East of 2° 15' E., may be attacked without challenge. (C. in C., Nore, 1148/13 to BERHIVE)

Possible Attack on Tay — Special intelligence indicates that Enemy are considering if weather is suitable for attack on Tay. Presume air attack referred to, but naval attack cannot be ruled out. See my 2200/12. (A.C.N.S. H. 1640/13 to C. in C., Rosyth)
Are Army and Air Force standing to in the region. (C. in C., H.F., 1736/13 to Adty.)
My 1640. Correct A.B.I. as follows. (D.S.O. 1832/13 to C. in C., Rosyth)
My 2200/12 (Enemy aircraft activity in North Sea) Correct A.B.I. as follows. (D.S.O. 1857/13 to C. in C., H.F.)
Your 1736/13. Information was given to Hofors and Air Ministry who have passed it on to Commands concerned. (A.C.N.S. H. 1919/ to C. in C., H.F.)

Iceland. Removal of Walrus Aircraft — Adty. 1504/12. Estimated time embarking Squadron 5 fine days. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1830/13 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.10.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

Additional Submarine at Campbeltown

Following received from NIMROD addressed Capt. S (7) begins re my 102/100/16/8. 3 submarines are required weekly commencing Monday 14/10. As I am informed only 2 submarines available from 7th Sub Flotilla it is requested application may be made to V.A.S. for a third submarine. 3 submarines are required from now onwards. 1729/9. ends. With present number of submarines attached to 7 submarine Flotilla a third submarine cannot be provided regularly at Campbeltown until either (a) submarine H.34 returns from Scapa (b) Netherland submarine O9 completes refit and then only when there are 3 or less than 3 C.O.Q.C. officers for sea training. (Capt S. 7. 0946/10 to V.A.S)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0700/14. (V.A.S 1619/13)

O. 24

To be brought to immediate notice. (V.A.S. 1719/13 to S. 9.)

H.S. 49

Proceed to patrol near 56° 30' N., 0° 30' W (V.A.S. 1729/13 to STURGEON)

UPRIGHT

Report on Area D. 4. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2017/13 to Adty.)

Submarines for A/S Training

Your 0946/10. The whole question is being raised with Adty. (V.A.S. 2151/13 to S.7.)

British Air Activity

No operations took place on 12/10 owing to weather. (H.Q.B.C. 0001/13)

Brest

To be attacked tonight 13/14. Targets (H.Q.C.C. 1529/13)

Tyne Balloon Barrage

Owing to alteration to area of examination anchorage by the establishment of a controlled minefield, request area in which balloon barrage vessels operating off the Tyne entrance may be increased to cover an area of 1 1/2 sea miles from the North Pier Light between East and North West.
The existing area to the southward of North Pier Light requires no modification.
(D. of L.D. 1540/13 to Air Ministry)

/Operations.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.10.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

Operations

Bomber Command Intelligence Summary No 478 Operations night 11/12 Oct. (H.Q.B.C. 1940/1 Summary No 476. Operations night 10/11 Oct. (H.Q.B.C. 2030/13) Summar No 480. Operation night 12/13 October. (H.Q.B.C., 1713/13)

Enemy Air Activity

Kjevik Aerodrome

20 Kilometres East of Christiansand is being greatly extended for military purposes and locally believed to be completed on 1/10. Information from passengers in Icelandic ESJA. (C.O.S.O. Kirkwall, 1016/13 to Adty.)

SATELITE

Trinity House vessel SATELITE reports that regularly about 12 noon and 1300 hours, an enemy aircraft has been seen flying westwards out of the mouth of the Bristol Channel, making its course over the lightship SEVEN STONES. From there it deviates its course southwards to the Wolf Lighthouse and thence in the direction of Lizard Point.
The SATELITE was machine gunned by a German 2 engined Dornier Airplane at 1315 hours, position 2½ miles North (magnetic) from Wolf Lighthouse on 25.9.40. (D.O.D. H. 2235/13 to H.Q.C.C.)

Mining

Examination Vessel Mined

At 080 (?) Medway Gate 1 mile. (VANITY 0844/13 to C. in C.,Nore) See DANUBE III

Explosions at Medway Gate and near South Shipwash

My 0845/13. Explosions occurred in rapid succession one minute after original two cables Northward of it. H.M.S. VANITY had just begun turning Northwards out of Medway Gate with 020° of wheel and revolutions staggered Starboard Engines 129 Port Engines 169 and was 6 cables distant. H.M.S. SHELDRAKE reports explosions with plume of water in position 3 miles Eastward of South Shipwash at 1816/13. Nearest ship was 3 cables Westward of explosion.
(VANITY 0915/14 to C. in C., Nore)

Falmouth

4 mines cut in Channel on 12/10, one found floating, all sunk. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1000/13 to Adty.)

/Tyne.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Tyne	One Ground Magnetic Mine detonated by Red LL in 079° Roker Pier Light 2½ cables. (P.M.S.O. North Shields 1013/13 to F.O.I.C Tyne)
Humber	Open to navigation (F.O. Humber 1028/13 to Adty.)
Orkneys	Cancel my 1105/11. (Westray Firth closed to shipping) (A.C.O.S. 1040/13) Object reported as Parachute submerged Barrage Balloon. (A.C.O.S. 1042/13 to Adty.)
Humber	Although Channel is believed clear, in view of uncertainty as to characteristics of German Mines it is considered undesirable for Cruiser to enter for the present with less than 15 feet of water above charted depth. (F.O.Humber 1054/13 to Adty.)
B.S. 41	Intend TEVIOT BANK to sail from Spurn Point at 1800/14, R/V with minesweeper at 0615/15 begin lay at 1200/15, and return same route. (S.O.Minelayers, Immingham 1105/13 to Adty.) LYDD is to R/V with TEVIOT BANK at 0615/15 at 20 D. Buoy (C. in C., Rosyth 1505/13 to M.S. 5)
Humber	Red Mine exploded by LL Trawlers in 255° Chequer Shoal Buoy 2½ cables. Very heavy explosion (F.O.Humber 1120/13 to Adty.)
SUMMER ROSE	M/S Drifter. Mined and sunk 100 yards N.W. of Red Conical Buoy Sunderland inner approach Channel. Chief Engineer and one rating missing. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1147/13 to Adty.)
Harwich	One mine exploded by Fleet Sweepers 5 cables 315° from 54 A Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1227/13 to Adty.)
Medway	Owing to mines, traffic is using Thames Gate. (C. in C., Nore, 1315/13 to Adty.)

/DANUBE III

MOST SECRET

13.10.1940
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

DANUBE III
JANETHA IV

Tug DANUBE III sunk by underwater explosion this morning in position 2½ cables 305° from Outer Bar Buoy Sheerness. When Yacht JANETHA IV was proceeding to rescue survivors, two more explosions occurred about one cable on her beam in positions 340 2 cables and 358 2 cables from Outer Bar Buoy JANETHA IV damaged but made harbour. (C. in C., Nore, 1424/14 to Adty.)

Thames Estuary

Mine apparently acoustic exploded in position 158° West Barrow Beacon 17 cables. Mine exploded 200° from WOLFHOUND, the nearest ship, while WOLFHOUND was turning half ahead and half astern 140 revolutions. (WOLFHOUND 1506/13 to C. in C., Nore)

Knob Light Vessel

Mine exploded at 1440 about 1 cable ENE from Knob Light Vessel. (WOLSEY 1510/13 to C. in C., Nore)

Dover

My 1231. Sweeping today near QZX 216 by four Oropesa Trawlers seven mines found in following positions:-
One cut and two detonated five cables 036° No 1 Buoy
One detonated 2 cables 080° No 1 Buoy.
One cut 9 cables 170° No 4 Buoy.
One cut one mile 170° No 4 Buoy.
One cut 6 and half cables 165° No 4 Buoy
Intend to sweep Channel again and north-western section of QSX 216 tomorrow as tide and weather permit. (V.A.Dover 1725/13 to Adty.)

Harwich

Add to my 2006/12 explosion was 4 cables ahead of ship. Very high column of water approximately 200 feet high. Base seemed to be half the height like mine explosion but no sign of black. No ship in the vicinity. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1911/13 to Adty.)

Humber

Closed from Spurn Point to Chequer Shoal Buoy owing to aircraft minelaying (F.O.Humber 2103/13 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

French and Norwegian Ports	Summary of Photographic R/C's on 12/10. (H.Q.C.C. 0905/13).
Trondheim to Statlandet	Shipping seen on 13/10. (Donibristle 1545/13 to O.I.C.).
Brest Lorient Gironde	Warships seen. (V.A.S. 1654/13).
Dutch, French, and Belgian ports.	Shipping seen at 0920/13. (P.I.U. Wembley 1730/13).
Trondheim.	R/C on 13/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 1834/13 to BERWICK, FURIOUS).
North Sea.	Air R/C. reports Convoy of 7 ships, one 8000 tons, five 2000 tons, one trawler at 1755 in 57° 58'N. 7°3' E. steering 300° at 5 knots. (C.in C. Rosyth 2058/13 to Capt. D.4.)

MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

MALOJA. Boiler defects developed while raising steam today will delay sailing by 24 hours. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1205/13 to Adty.)

STALWART. Rescue Tug. Is out of action for next 12 hours. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1940/13 to Adty.).

KING NEPTUNE. My 1605/11. Arrived 12/10. (Cape Town 1055 B/13 to Adty.).

NORA In S.C.6. Not arrived. Asking when she was last seen (C.in C. W.A. 1240/13 to ENCHANTRESS).

MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys.	Shipping.
O.A. 231	Route (D.T.D. 1110/13).
B.A.S. 4.	Ships. Estimated t.o.d. 1330/13, E.T.A. Reykjavik dusk 17/10 (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1151/13).
E.N. 9.	Escorts BERKSHIRE, WOLVES, CAPE ARGONA, ARCTIC EXPLORER. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0630/13).
B.A.S.	Sailed (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1359/13).
H.X. 79.	BIAFRA carries exceptionally important cargo. Place in central position and give additional escort if possible (D.T.D.1736/13, 1737/13).
B.S. 41.	Two Humber destroyers to be detailed as escort. C.in C. Rosyth arrange air escort (C.in C. Nore 1744/13)
F.N. 7. F.S. 8.	Escorts GUILLEMOT, SHELDRAKE, AGATE, AMETHYST (C.in C. Rosyth 1517/13).
	Your 1030 received. Essential that escort vessels should remain at sea to search and protect ships in H.X. 77 only and returning to harbour to fuel when necessary. (C.in C. W.A. 1317/13).
H.X. 77.	WESTON proceeding to collect, then to pick up ship (WESTON 1331/13). If no further developments by time you reach splitting point proceed to Rosyth (A.C.W.A.1903/13 to WESTON).
ALMANZORA ANTONIA "Rival"	To sail with troops for Iceland. Date. Escort LETITIA; her subsequent movements. Code word "Rival" (A.C.N.S.(H) 1900/13).
TORONTO CITY	Signal made in special code to her to join S.L. 51 (D.D.O.D.(H) 1750/11).

MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.
Sunday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic.

Escape of French ships 10/6.

French N.A. has questioned me about passage in Prime Minister's speech indicating information of passage of French Warships through Straits of Gibraltar on 11/9 was not known (?Naval Intelligence). He was mystified and indignant as he had informed me of French Admiralty's signal the day before. I said I had passed on the signal. I made no other comment. Actually my 1809 10/9 to you and Gibraltar was sent within few minutes of receiving the information. (N.A. Madrid 1245/13).

Force H.

My position at 2000 A 034° 11' 011° 00' 068° 22½ knots. GALLANT, GRIFFIN, FIREDRAKE, in company. Request gate 1030/14.
GREYHOUND WISHART and VIDETTE with ETTRICK KARANJA intend to arrive 0600/15.
(S.O. Force H 1901/13).
Convoys D.T.D. 1905/13 see America and West Indies.

FRANCO FASSIO sunk

Under Secretary of Spanish Foreign Office informed our commercial adviser last night that Italian steamship FRANCO FASSIO running between Genoa and Barcelona was torpedoed and sunk off Savona several days ago with loss of all or nearly all on board including 18 passengers of whom 4 were Spanish.
(N.A. Madrid 1315/13).

South Atlantic.

Suspicious vessel.

Following from DALIA via Jacobs Radio.
(a) Received at 0556 G.M.T. 13/10. ROTULA reports suspicious vessel position 026° 05' 037° 41', description, does not alter course, engine probably stopped.
(b) Received at 0616 G.M.T. 13/10. ROTULA suspicious vessel disappeared.
(ii) DALIA subsequently Jacobs asked for position to be verified. Jacobs radio contacted ROTULA and had position confirmed as 026° 50' S. 037° 45'.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0905 Z/13).

/ DELHI .....

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Continued).

DELHI
TOUAREG

My 1157/10 DELHI and TOUAREG with armed guard on board expect to arrive Outer Bar of Cameroons River 1,000 Zone minus one 14/10. Request arrangements may be made for ship to be taken over by the French and armed guard relieved on arrival at base buoy. DELHI will embark armed guard and sail as soon as possible. Has confirmation asked for in the last part of my 1157/10 been given.
(.in C. S.A. 1145/13 to N.C.S.O. Duala, DELHI).

Expect to arrive Cameroons outer bar 1000 zone minus one 14/10. Request instruction regarding relief of RESOLUTION armed guard now in Touareg. DELHI must leave Manoka by 1600/14 to comply with F.O.C. 1st C.S. 0955/12. (DELHI 2013/12.)

ANTONIOS CHANDRIS sunk 8/9 by raider

Master and 21 members of crew of ANTONIOS CHANDRIS landed here from Portuguese ship SERPA PINTO 13/10. Master reports being stopped by raider in 012° N. 035° W. at dusk 8/9 whilst on passage from Cardiff to Buenos Aires with coal. Armed boarding party sank ship with 3 explosive charges after crew had left in 2 ships life boats. Master not allowed to use his W/T but officer of party promised to make S.O.S. Description of raider not of much value as she did not approach close and dark had fallen but Master states was 3 island cargo steamer about 8000 tons with 2 unraked masts without topmasts unraked funnel(s) close abaft bridge straight stem counter stern. Superstructure and top strake of poop and forecastle white remainder black with flag painted on side abreast funnel(s) but nationality not visible. Boats parted company during first night and Master steered for position about 100 miles south west of Cape Verde Islands from where Trades drove him south to 007° N. 029° W. where he was picked up on 6/10. Chief Officer and 10 men in other boat ordered to steer north east stated to have provisions for over 40 days. Master would be glad to have news whether this boat yet found.

Master HIGHLAND PRINCESS estimates ship making raider distress signals reported by his 2118 8th October to Admiralty was 30 miles distant.
(N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1620/13).

/ ENTERPRISE .....

MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (continued).

ENTERPRISE. Your 1212/5. ENTERPRISE is urgently required on her proper station as soon as HAWKINS rejoins your broad pendant. Regret your proposals cannot be approved. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1741/13).

FAULKNOR
FURY
FORESTER
FORESIGHT — To sail 1800/13, speed, route, to Gibraltar (C.in C. S.A. 1313 N/13) Sailed 1815/13 (S.O.(I) Freetown 1859 N/13).

KING NEPTUNE — My 1605/11. Arrived 12/10 (Capetown 1055 B/13).

BARHAM — Re French ratings on board (C.in C. S.A. 1137/13).

PRIMAUGUET — If PRIMAUGUET is not sighted by 1800/13 RENOWN, BARHAM, AUSTRALIA and accompanying destroyers proceed to Gibraltar (A.C.N.S.(F) 1308/13).

Convoy S L 51. — ALCANTARA will act as local escort. (C.in C. S.A. 1929/11).

Submarine report — (S.O.(I) Freetown 1718/13) See U-boat campaign.

Italian survivors — Following has been intercepted in plain language at 2156/12 G.M.T. from Coltano radio to hospital ship IBEO begins - Make arrangements to arrive in area bounded by parallels 35° 40' and 36° and between meridians 16° and 16° 40' if possible during daylight hours in order to search for survivors. After sunset proceed to Naples. Signed Cavagnari. Ends. (D.O.D. (F) 0213/13 to V.A. Malta.)

VIDO sunk — S.O.(I) Istanbul reports Yugo Slavian S.S. VIDO which left Istanbul 4/10 for Braila with 60,104 bales of jute on British account for Belgrade, now reported sunk in Russian territorial waters. Crew landed Odessa. Further information respecting pretext sought. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1125/13).

Ship now reported to have struck mine and sunk 18 miles north of Sulina. Crew landed Ismail.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 1747/13).

/ Can it be assumed ...

MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Continued)

Can it be assumed that:-
(a) MALAYA should be retubed as soon as BARHAM joins your Flag.
(b) You would prefer this to be done at Durban.
(c) MALAYA should refit concurrently with retubing.
(d) You would wish to retain RAMILLIES until return of MALAYA.

2. Tubes for MALAYA arrive at Durban at end of October. (D.O.D.(F) 1959/13 to C.in C. Med.)

Air reports

All time G.M.T. Aircraft carried out R.C. of Ionian Sea area. 04.00 - 07.45 hours Swordfish of 830 Squadron F.A.A. reported large patch of oil (35.50 N. 16 E.) 04.45 - 09.34 hours Glenn Martin of 431 flight at 07.00 hours signalled one destroyer and one M/V - position 39. 10 N 17.20 E. On landing reported Taranto 3 battleships - 11 cruisers and two either battleships or large cruisers also a number of small craft.
French Late course reported at 12.35
Italian Hospital ship position 35. 10 N 17 E.
(Gov. Malta 2135/13).

East Indies.

Whalers.

N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1634/11. Asking for 2 whalers, asshortage of efficient local defence vessels on E.I. Station is acute (C.in C. E.I. 0704 Z/13).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

To be sailed for Gibraltar as soon as ready (A.C.N.S.(F) 1432/13)

SWARTENHONDT attacked by Raider.

The following has been read:-
VRS RRRR Dutch SWARTENHONDT 3950E 2605S (Colombo T.O.R. 1547/13.)

The following has been read:-
VRS JACOBS Natal radio from SWAARTENHONDT here only HORIZON did not change course at present not to be seen.
(C.in C. E.I. T.O.R. 1626 Z/13.)

Distress report by SWARRTENHONDT have ordered CLAN MACARTHUR to continue voyage independently and KANIMBLA to proceed towards position 026° S. 038° E. to cover shipping. CERES, 8 hours notice at Durban raising steam. (C.in C. E.I. 1816 Z/13.)

/ At 1800/13 .....

MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

At 1800/13 SWARTENHONDT made R R R R 039° 50' E. 026° 5' S. Jacobs W/T Station was in touch all the time. At 1834 when asked description SWARTENHONDT replied "Only on horizon. Did not change course. At present not to be seen." There was no difference in transmission noted. According to my plotting there was no ship near SWARTENHONDT at the time and I am not satisfied with this All Clear Signal meaning this was not an enemy ship, but rather that she did not attack. She appears to fall under Category (C) of your 1440 Z/30/9. It is noticeable that both this and ROTULA's report early this morning indicate same procedure. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 2221/13. to C.in C. E.I.)

My 1816/13 SWARTENHONDT cancelled distress message at 1842 Z/13 CERES is reverting to previous notice for steam. (C.in C. E.I. 2242Z/13.)

Dhow traffic

Your 0616/1 and 1734/12. Specific threat to sink dhows should not repeat not be made. Imam may be informed that traffic of dhows between Yemen and Italian territory endangers his security as well as ours and must be stopped immediately, that strong measures will be taken by us and therefore dhows engaged in this traffic will incur grave danger.
2. It should not be said that no action will be taken within 10 miles of Yemen territory, but Imam should be informed that if he co-operates in supressing the smuggling of contraband by dhows our measures will be put into force at a discreet distance from the shores of the Yemen.
(Hd. of M. 2011/13, to C.in C. E.I.).

America & West Indies.

JERVIS BAY
ESPERANCE BAY
re reliefs.

Your 1651/10. No objection subject to timely relief. Change of employment beneficial to ships' companies if relieved vessels employed in home waters. Conditions of JERVIS BAY, ESPERANCE BAY, VOLTAIRE.
(C.in C. A. W.I. 0932/12 to Adty.).

Convoy S.C.8.

Propose sailing 1200/15, a delay of 48 hours (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1010/13).

SAGUENAY
MARGAREE

My 1841/9 SAGUENAY will sail from Halifax a.m./16 for U.K. direct at 15 knots. Request that MARGAREE may be sailed for Halifax so as to cross SAGUENAY in Western Approaches. (N.S.H. Ottawa 1117/12).

/AMERICA & WEST INDIES .....

MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

HAMILTON — Re defects (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1054/13).

Navigation lights on Western American coast. — Your 1302/12. Concur. Request you will issue necessary instructions (A.C.N.S. (T) 1803/13 to C.in C. A. W.I.).

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA — Asking date of sailing from Halifax, whether 100 troops embarked, cargo (D. of S.T. 1826/13 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa) Reply (N.S. H.Q. Ottawa 2134/13).

CHARLES L.D. — Your 1101/8. This ship should be intercepted if possible (A.C.N.S.(F) 1946/13 to C.in C. A. and W.I.).

HX Convoy. — Re typing error. Several ships sailed from Sydney before error discovered (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1004/11).

Convoys. — The final position of the standard route should not be to the eastward of R.V. position (D.T.D. 1805/13 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, F.O.C. N.A.)

CYMBELINE sunk by raider 2/9 — Your 1635/22/9. (Bermuda's 2300/19 stated that CYMBELINE sighted raider 0900/2/9, but R.R. from CYMBELINE intercepted at 0903/30/8.) Signed statement from 3 officer survivors of CYMBELINE states that ship was attacked at 2100/2/9. (C.in C. A. W.I. 2028/13).

New Zealand.

HAXBY. Raider. Mines off C. Agulhas. — Adty. (corrupt group) 4/9 and 1129 5/10 and 191/10 state HAXBY sunk on 24/4 and Cape Agulhas mines laid early May by same raider. Should it be assumed that this ship is in fact a raider capable of maintaining a high speed.
(S.O.(I) Wellington 2306Z/13 to D.N.I.).

MOST SECRET.

13.10.1940.
Sunday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

Unknown ship

Ship attacked, intercept 0753 G.M.T. 057° 02' N. 013° 11' W. position doubtful. (C.in C. W.A. 0803/13, 0921/13, Valentia Radio 0738/13).

DAGRUN escaped

DAGRUN attacked position 56° 00' N. 8° 22' W.
(Lyness W/T T.O.R. 1439/13.)

At 1425 G.M.T. D.F. Bearings of DAGRUN 311° unreliable sector.
(Port Patrick 1445/13).

Am proceeding with all despatch to DAGRUN. Expect to reach her at 1715.
(WITHERINGTON 1508/13).

DAGRUN still attacked position now 5630 N 7,54 W plus GKU.
(From ? 1527/13.).

DAGRUN attacked by submarine position 056° 00' north 008° 22' west at 1439. Investigate.
(C.in C. W.A. 1531/13 to WESTON).

Still attacked torpedo exploded very near us please give me a bearing.
(DAGRUN T.O.R. 1555/13.)

Position at 1600 G.M.T. 56° 31' N. 7° 46 W. Course 150.
(DAGRUN T.O.R. 1700/13).

DAGRUN met in position 056° 007° 31' W. DAGRUN reports submarine last seen at 1530. Am remaining with her. (? SHIKARI 1750/13).

LYMINGE escaped 12/10.

My 1605/12. For British ship HEATH ABBEY read British Ship LYMINGE.
(F.O.C. N.A. 1057/13).

Submarines reported.

South Atlantic.

Norwegian S.S. VIBRAN reports as follows. Begins:- 0850 G.M.T./2 position (?054 degrees) 06' N. 027° 23' W. Officer of the watch sighted c.t. of submarine distant 4 miles. Submarine in sight only 4 minutes, quickly submerged.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1718/13).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian - 2 in area S.W. of Spain.
German - 1 far out in Atlantic W. of 20° W.
No recent news or whereabouts.
1 was in about 56° 30'N. 17° 30'W. at 1212/12.
1 was in 56° 20'N. 11 43' W. at 1916/12.
1 was reported in about 30'N. of Rockall at 1055/12. (D.D.I.C. 1255/13).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

More Destroyers carried out the Dover Patrol last night.

Four destroyers of 4th D.F. last night operated against enemy shipping off the South West coast of Norway. A convoy of 3 merchant ships and 2 escort vessels was destroyed off Egero.
One of the merchant ships was of about 7,000 tons and the other two of 5,000 tons; one of the latter burnt fiercely and ultimately exploded. COSSACK was hit by a shell which burst in the tiller compartment.

Force D

BERWICK, NORFOLK, FURIOUS and 4 destroyers are proceeding to operate against enemy shipping off Northern Norway. SEAWOLF has been ordered to be in position to attack any enemy warships that may be in Trondheim, should they proceed to sea to intercept Force D.

CAIRO

CAIRO is to be used for the A.A. defence of shipping in the Irish Sea and N.W. Approaches she will normally be sailed with the fast O.L. Convoys or those carrying troops and stores and will cooperate with fighter aircraft from Aldergrove.

U-Boat Sunk

TRIDENT today reports that on 8/10 she hit an enemy submarine by gunfire and presumed she sank it, off Belle Isle.

CHESHIRE Torpedoed

CHESHIRE was torpedoed this evening about 160 miles west of Bloody Foreland, whilst proceeding to Western Patrol. Assistance was sent and CHESHIRE proceeded to Clyde under her own steam.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Coastal Command last night attacked shipping at Flushing, causing violent explosions and fires, though weather conditions prevented results from being assessed.
Zeebrugge mole was also attacked; all bombs fell at the junction of the mole with the mainland railroads.

Bad weather conditions in Germany last night affected bombing operations. Bombs were dropped in the Wilhelmshaven dock area, The Deutsche Werke Ship building yards at Kiel, and the Hamburg dock area.

The Channel ports were attacked, and the Seaplane base at Nordeney. Flushing, Zeebrugge, and Dombourg were also attacked and a successful R.C. of the Namsos area was carried out.

Owing to the weather many routine patrols and other flights were cancelled or ineffective today. Little was effected by the aircraft of Bomber Command which were sent to attack the Channel ports.

Enemy Air Activity

St. Merryn R.N.A.S. Station was machine gunned this evening. There were no casualties or damage.

Mining

A mine was detonated off North Shields today. One mine was cut in the South Goodwins minefield.

The Humber was reopened early this morning; A mine was exploded and spontaneous explosic occurred during the day.

The western entrance to Hoy Sound has been swept and is now considered clear (see 30/9)

Convoys were swept through the war channel off Harwich today and two mines were found.

/Trinity.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

Trinity House vessel RECULVER was mined and sunk in the entrance to the Humber this afternoon.

H.M. Trawler LORD STAMP is missing probably sunk by mine 17 miles SSW of Portland Bill at 0130/14.

Operations Against Vichy French

RENOWN and SHEFFIELD returned to Gibraltar this morning.

It is reported that the Admiral, French West Africa has proclaimed a mined area off Libreville.

Mediterranean

TRITON reports sinking one 5,000 ton DEMS escorted by two MAS off Genoa and one 3,000 ton ship in Vado Roads. Savona was bombarded and a fire, possibly the gas works, was caused in Vado. The dates of these incidents are not stated.

The French destroyer FLEURET passed Gibraltar this morning from west to east escorting two merchant ships and shortly afterwards returned westbound.

LIVERPOOL was torpedoed at 1855 today between Crete and Alexandria and was taken in tow by ORION at 1200/15. Her back appears to be broken.

East Indies

PARRMATTA, escorting Convoy B.S. 6½ was bombed near Centre Park Island (Red Sea) this morning. No damage has been reported.

MOST SECRET.

14.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals. At 0200/14 (D.C. 0201/14). At 1400/14 (D.C. 1420 and 1805/14).

Policy.

INGLEFIELD, ECHO, ESCAPADE, ECLIPSE) To be relieved by DUNCAN, FAME, FEARLESS, FOXHOUND

Your 1859/13. I very much deprecate this continual shifting about of destroyers. Reasons. Gibraltar Dockyard not subject to same scale of bombing as southern yards in England. Proposing refits be carried out at Gibraltar rather than further choke Dockyards in U.K. (C.in C. H.F. 1139/14).

Escort groups. C.in C. W.A. 2101/12. Escort groups of corvettes and destroyers to be formed. Details (C.in C. W.A. 1457/14).

BERWICK or AUSTRALIA for Mediterranean. Reply to C.in C. H.F. 1825/12. There is insufficient time to make your proposal practicable (1st S.L. 1608/4 to C.in C. H.F.)

CAIRO. To be used for A.A. defence of shipping in Irish Sea andN.W. Approaches. Use to be made of R.D.F. and R/T to assist fighter aircraft from Aldergrove in attacking enemy aircraft. CAIRO will usually be sailed with fast O.L. convoys or those carrying troops and stores. To be based on Clyde and not to operate west of 10° W. unless air attacks further west appear likely (C.in C. W.A. 1613/14)

4.7 shell for destroyers. Production of 4.7 inch H.E.T.F. shell for destroyers guns has now reached a satisfactory figure and the restrictions imposed by Adty. 2336/20/5 are cancelled. (Hd. of M. 2140/14).

GLASGOW My 1655/11. It will also be necessary to strengthen Mediterranean Fleet by one large 6" Cruiser which must be ready to sail on 28th October. Taking refits and leave into consideration it would appear that GLASGOW is the most suitable. Request your remarks. (V.C.N.S. 2225/14 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

14.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements.

WALLACE — Proceed forthwith to reinforce Escort of F.N. 7 due Sheringham 0730/14. (C.in C. Rosyth 0501/14 to WALLACE). My 1830. WALLACE left F.N.7 at dark and is proceeding to Rosyth H.X.A. 77. ETA Kinnaird Head 0130/15. (C.in C. Rosyth 2044/14).

WESTON — With s.s. AGAMEMNON off Cape Wrath at 1130. Speed 10 knots. Route P. (WESTON 1142/14 to A.C.O.S.)

KING GEORGE V. (Air Protection) — Your 1910/13. Adty. will arrange this. (D.O.D.H. 1158/14 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Admiralty 0215/10. In view of advance in programme, arrangements have been made for ship to be passed into Basin at Rosyth on P.M. Tide at about 1700/17.

Request you report whether foremost R.D.F. mast can be struck in time to allow ship to pass under Forth Bridge accordingly.

Important that ship has no list in either direction when entering lock, C.in C. H.F. concurs.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1731/14 to KING GEORGE V).

KING GEORGE V will leave Walkers Yard Tyne at 0430/17.

(2) The following forces under command of C.S.15 will be required to cover passage to Rosyth; AA protection NAIAD, BONAVENTURE; A/S screen FAME, SIKH, MAORI, ELECTRA, BRILLIANT, BEAGLE.

(3) Following measures to be taken as a precaution against magnetic mines.

(4) Cruisers should not enter Q Z S 124 unless it is necessary to give close protection against air attack.
(C.in C. H.F. 2212/14 to C.S.15).

Dover. — Patrols for Night 14/15. (V.A. Dover 1548/14).

Rosyth Area. — Movements for Night 14/15 and Positions at 2000/14. (C.in C. Rosyth 1830/14).

MOST SECRET.

14.10.1940.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Attack on Tay.	My 1640/13. Now considered unlikely to take place. (V.C.N.S. 0041/14 to C.in C. Rosyth).
Operation P.S. (EREBUS)	Will not take place tonight (C.in C. Nore 1010/14 to EREBUS.
Patrol O.	To be carried out by two of 21st D.F. (C.in C. Nore 1040/14 to D.16, D.21).
Proposed Submarine operation off French West Coast	Propose following operation for Night 21/22 October to attack Enemy Surface Forces leaving French West Coast ports. TUNA, TARU, CACHALOT leave Clyde 18/10 and in position by sunrise 21st. Proposed movements. (S.2. 1052/14 to V.A.S.)
Enemy Convoy and Escort sunk.	Captain (D) 4 reports that he destroyed a convoy of 3 merchant ships and 2 escort vessels in position 4 miles 270° from Egero light. Particularly requested that no public announcement of the type of force which has achieved this result should be made as otherwise future operations will be compromised. Details follow on return of Force to harbour. (C.in C. H.F. 1118/14 to Adty.) My 1118/14 further details are as follows. One escorting vessel was trawler type and the other a motor boat with torpedo tubes. One Merchant ship estimated to be about 7000 tons and the other two of 2500 tons. One of the smaller ships burnt fiercely and ultimately exploded the other two ships sank. COSSACK was hit by shell which burst in ships side of tiller compartment damage repairable in about three days. On Rating wounded in that compartment was the only casualty. (C.in C. H.F. 2214/14 to Adty.)
Straits of Dover.	Weather permitting M.T.B's 70 and 5 will leave Dover at 2200/14 to operate between Boulogne and Gravelines, returning daylight 15th. (V.A. Dover 1225/14) Cancelled owing to weather. (V.A. Dover 1902/14 to Adty.)

/ Operation J.F. ....

MOST SECRET.

14.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations. (Continued)

Operation J.F.

Additional Outer Patrol Lines J and K established as follows.
Orders for Patrol Vessels and for informing them early of any friendly vessels. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1407/14 to F.O.I.C. Portland).

Adty. 1111/20/9, para. 3A(I). Request Outer Patrol Line in Portsmouth Command be amended as follows. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1437/14 to Adty.)

Iceland.

Your 1830/13. Reasons for requiring 5 days for embarkation not understood. ARGUS only to embark aircraft, air-stores, and personnel. Motor Transport and other stores to be sent in M.T. ships as convenient. ARGUS will arrive Iceland P.M./21 and must sail for U.K. by P.M./23. Report if this practicable.
(5th S.L. 1712/14 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)

Enemy Attack on Trawler Patrol.

My 1257/12. 1501/12. 1847/13 and 2113/13. LISTRAC and WARWICK DEEPING were patrolling in line ahead course west at 5 knots with LISTRAC leading. Enemy was sighted on a S.E. by bearing at a distance of 2 or 3 miles in position 180 degs. St. Catherines 10 miles at 224°/11.

Enemy opened fire on WARWICK DEEPING first whereupon LISTRAC switched on his identification lights. Fire was then opened on LISTRAC. LISTRAC was hit immediately in boiler room which caused an explosion and ship began to sink. Crew abandoned ship and survivors were picked up a.m./12th.

After WARWICK DEEPING had been hit 2 or 3 times she escaped and steamed towards the shore. Crew were compelled to abandon ship about one hour later and ship subsequently sank. Neither Trawler opened fire during the action.

Only evidence available regarding loss of chasers 06 and 07 is contained in messages received by Portsdown Hill W/T. Station and Lloyds Cottage (Portland) and from observation of gunfire by shore observers. Copy of messages is being forwarded by letter.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1807/14 to Adty.)

/ Force D. .....

MOST SECRET.

14.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued).

Force D. (Tromso).

C.in C. Home Fleet, 1057/12. Intend to proceed in HOOD with SOMALI, MASHONA, and ESKIMO passing Hoxa at 1550/15 to join Force D during daylight 17th. If D H U phase one is delayed intend to join during daylight 18th. Route will be through positions G, B, and towards O referred to in operation D H U, passing through position 068° north 000° 40' East at 0800/17 speed of advance 15 knots.

(ii) If Force D is not met course 059° will be continued until 1300 when HOOD will reverse course along the track indicated.

(iii) If phase one has been carried out on 18th and it is apparent HOOD will not make contact during daylight 17th BERWICK is to make an immediate report by W/T using H/E giving her position course and speed.

(iv) If no signal is received in accordance with para. (iii) it will be assumed phase one has been delayed 24 hours and same procedure will be carried out on 18th October. In either case Force 'D' should steer along track O B G W and H.M.S. HOOD is to alter course as necessary closing during daylight hours. (F.O.C. 1st B.C. 2357/14 to C.in C. H.F.)

Submarines.

STURGEON.

Cancel my 1729/13. Proceed to Blyth. (V.A.S. 0124/14 to STURGEON).

C.in C. 1331/12.
(A) 7th Submarine Flotilla is at present fully occupied in providing submarines for A/S Training at Campbeltown and Tobermory and one temporarily at Scapa and also in providing submarines for training submarine commanding officers Qualifying course.

(B) The situation will improve on return of H.34 from Scapa about 24/10 and on transfer of H.28 and H.49 from Harwich to Rothesay in early November to which my 1392/SM 105 of 13/10 refers.

(C) Clyde A/S Practice areas are at present used to the full.

/ (D) ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines (Continued)

(D) On increase in 7th Flotilla referred to in paragraph B. one submarine could be based at Holyhead changing round monthly and a total of 2 others could possibly be made available for Tobermory and/or Londonderry.
The margin necessary to provide for refit to repairs and time on passage is too small to guarantee the required number of Submarines being available all the time.
(V.A.S. 1118/14 to Adty.)

Re your private letter to C.S.O.(O).
Agree in principle with your proposals.
In view however of my 1654/13 you should concentrate on Lorient and Bordeaux.
TUNA is to be kept to relieve TALISMAN to avoid a gap later on and doubtless S.7 can make use of TUNA in the meantime to assist in A/S Training. Approved to sail TAKU and CACHALOT. TAKU patrolling off Lorient and CACHALOT in the Northern Outer area proposed by you subsequently relieving PORPOISE. It is suggested that the Submarine off Bordeaux should periodically proceed about 120 miles to seaward on a line joining Gironde to a position about 20 miles North of Cape Ortegal.
(V.A.S. 1219/14 to S.2).

TIGRIS — Leave patrol P.M./15 and is being routed within 30 miles of Ushant. Am allowing her to sink at sight any M/V met South of 49° N. (V.A.S. 1641/14 to Adty.).

Positions. — For following 24 hours at 0700/15. (V.A.S 1652/14).

URSULA
UPRIGHT
UTMOST
to
Mediterranean. — S.5 0947. Have just been informed Admiralty has approved 3 U-Class to proceed to Mediterranean at a very early date. URSULA, UPRIGHT and UTMOST will be sent. Request URSULA be kept back from patrol and that she be prepared to sail for Gibraltar on 20th October. As much leave as possible should be given consistant with the above. Date of departure of UTMOST and UPRIGHT depends on result of propellor trials.
(V.A.S. 1334/11 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

MOST SECRET.

14.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Zeebrugge. Attacked at 1955 to 2035/13. Explosions and one large fire seen. (H.Q.C.C. 1100/14).

Flushing. Aircraft of 53 Squadron to attack Oil Tanks and Shipping on Night 14/15. (H.Q.C.C. 1240/14).

Lorient. Aircraft of 59 Squadron to attack on Night 14/15. (H.Q.C.C. 1241/14).

A/S Patrol. Will be flown daily until further notice by Sunderland Aircraft from dawn for 8 to 10 hours in following area. (C.in C. Rosyth 1346/14).

S.A. 1 A. S.A.2. and 5 A. S.) Cancelled this P.M. owing to low visibility. (C.in C. Rosyth 1416/14).

Boulogne, Calais, Havre, Dunkirk, Ostend, Kiel, Flushing, Hamburg, Wilhelmshaven, Borkum, Terschelling. Attacked by Aircraft during Night 13/14. (H.Q.B.C. 1800/14).

A/S Moonlight Patrol. Will be carried out by Sunderland leaving Invergordon 2200/14 for about 6 hours near 58° 43' N. 9°50' W. (C.in C. Rosyth 2008/14).

ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

Sculcoates. One HE Bomb in Main Shed of Naval Stores Depot. Contents damaged, extent not yet assessed. (F.O. Humber 1320/14 to Adty.).

Chatham. At about 1230/14 one Bomb fell at R.N.A. Depot, Lodge Hill. Slight damage. No casualties. (Supt. C.E. Chatham 1810/14 to Civil Lord).

St. Merryn. Attacked at 2130/14 by machine-gun from one Aircraft. No casualties or damage. (R.N.A.S. St. Merryn 2201/14 and 0735/15).

MOST SECRET.

12.10.1940.
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Humber	Open to navigation (F.O. Humber 0530/14) Spontaneous explosion 7 cables 248½° Middle L.V. (F.O. Humber 0953/14). Mine exploded by LL trawlers at 0900 in 303° Middle L.V. 2 cables, spontaneous explosion in 157° Spurn Point 2 miles at 1340 and further explosion at 1400 on the Binks no ships near (F.O. Humber 1835/14).
Harwich.	Fleet sweepers swept F.N. convoy through 148 Q Z S from N.E. Swin L.V. to 2 evening 13/10 one mine exploded in sweep (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0857/14) Fleet sweepers swept F.S. Convoy through 148 Q.Z.S. from 2 to junction of 7 Q.Z.F. One mine picked up in sweep. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1627/14).
Dover.	North Goodwin nothing found (V.A. Dover 1205/14). One mine cut 1½ miles 260° South Goodwin L.V. (V.A. Dover 1811/14)
North Shields.	Ground magnetic mine detonated 72° Roker Pier Lt. 10.5 cables at 1215 (P.M.S.O. North Shields (1253/14)
DANUBE III mined 13/10.	Technical details of VANITY's course (C.in C. Nore 1453/14)
RECULVER sunk.	Trinity House vessel damaged by underwater explosion in 195° Spurn Pt. Lt. Ho. 1.2 miles. Explosion took place 30 ft. on port beam. Vessel now sunk in approx. 3 cables N.W. of No. 4 Buoy in Northern Examination Anchorage (F.O. Humber 1513/14 1837/14).
Operation B.S. 41.	In my 1830 read B.S.41 14 miles N.E. Spurn Pt. (C.in C. Rosyth 1945/14).
Hoy Sound.	My 1603/30/9. Western entrance to Hoy Sound has been swept and is considered clear. (A.C.O.S. 1959/14)
Acoustic mines.	Conditions to be observed by destroyers under way when in waters likely to be acoustically mined and when not proceeding larger vessels (C.in C. Nore 2154/14).

MOST SECRET.

14.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Photographic R.C.	Norway, France, Holland, Belgium. 12/10, 13/10 (H.Q.C.C. 0905/14).
Brest, Lorient.	Results of examination of photographs. (P.R.U. St. Eval 1000/14).
One small vessel.	Following remains unidentified. Begins: Scapa W/T from Fair Isle one small slow vessel bearing 272 degrees distance 10 miles course 225 degrees speed 8 knots foggy 0835/12 Ends. (A.C.O.S. 1024/14).
Trondheim.	R.C. 13/10. (V.A. (S) 1653/14).
Terschelling) Calais)	Shipping seen during Night 13/14. (H.Q.B.C. 1800/14).

MOST SECRET.

14.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

FOWEY. Steering Engine out of action. Hand steering satisfactory while in company with other ships.
(FOWEY 0002/15 to C.in C. W.A.).

PERIWINKLE. Reports W/T transmitter out of action and is proceeding Liverpool with HEINA. (CLARKIA 0015/14 to C.in C. W.A.).

DARTFORD)
JESSIE MAERSK) British Ships ex Convoy O.B.M. 228 S. arrived Belfast Lough 0930 with collision damage.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 1020/14 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

14.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys	Shipping.
H.X. 78.	To alter course, (C.in C. W.A. to ANTHONY, etc., 2050/14).
H.X. 77 A.	Time of arrival Kinnaird Head. (C.in C. Rosyth 2044/14).
O.G. 44.	Route amended (C.in C. W.A. 1610/14).
F.N. 7.	WALLACE to meet and escort. (C.in C. Rosyth 0537/14, 0856/14)
O.B.M. 228.	DARTFORD and JESSIE MAERSK arrived Belfast, collision (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1020/14.)
S.C.8.	SANDWICH arrived 13/10. Convoy sails 1200/15. Delay of 48 hours. (D.T.D.1018/14).
O.A.229.	List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0931/14) Escort JASON, HIBISCUS, CORKOPSIS (N.C.S.O. Methil 0905/14).
O.L.8.	HIGHLANDER and HAVELOCK to sail with. (C.in C. W.A. 1117/15).
S.C.7.	Route. (D.T.D., 1241/14).
H.X.81.	Escort VOLTAIRE sailing 16/10 and returning Halifax. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1632/14).
B.H.X. 82.	Advance sailing telegram. (S.C.D.E. Bermuda, 1201/14).
O.G.44.	Sailing telegram. (C.in C. W.A. 2100/14) Amend route. (D.T.D. 1115/14).
S.L.F. 52.	Ocean route. (D.T.D. 1617/14).
H.X. 79.	Sailing telegram as amended by Admty. (D.T.D. 1809/14).
O.B. 231.	Route (D.T.D. 1116/14).
S.C.6.	ENCHANTRESS reports NORA did not sail. (D.T.D., 1114/14)
O.B. 230.	Route. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1005/14).
Troop Convoys	
B.A.S. 4.	Position, steering for Reykjavik. (V.A.S. 1102/14). Routed direct from Stornoway to Reykjavik. (A.C.O.S. 1202/14).

French M.V's. .....

MOST SECRET.

14.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Troop Convoys

Shipping. (Continued).

French M.V's

Your 1236/8. French N.A. should be informed no escort being provided for 4 French M.V's from North Ireland to U.K., but they should pass through (route). Essential Admty. be informed when vessels sailing. (Hd. of M. to N.A. Washington, 1658/14).

SVEADROTT
CASTOR

Your 1745/8. Re route your para 2, an answer has been given to Swedish Legation in London. No enquiry re. CASTOR has reached Admiralty. While no objections to CASTOR accompanying SVEADROTT to U.S., Admiralty is not prepared to give any assurances about a return voyage for either SVEADROTT or CASTOR.
(1631/14 Head of M. (68) to N.A. Stockholm)

Route for
Neutrals.

Neutral ships may be sent between South and West coasts of U.K. via 105 Q.Z.Y. Master to be given a route designed to disguise the simple nature of the gap. An officer is to be placed on board for the passage, not to navigate the ship but solely to ensure that the Master adheres strictly to route ordered.
(D.T.D. 1838/14).

Need for Group
Sailings.

Your 2017/13 and 1407/14. Experience here confirms information of future movements often received too late to enable patrols and other ships concerned to be warned.
Owing to weather etc. movements of small vessels, both Naval and Merchant, cannot be foretold with accuracy. For these reasons, considered that if patrols are to shoot at sight all ships must be sailed in escorted groups.
(C.in C. W.A. 2115/14 to C.in C. Portsmouth)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

French Shipping

Gibraltar 1100/14. French destroyer FLEURET escorting ALICE ROBERT, MONTAIGNE passed from W. to E. 1120, FLEURET returned westbound (S.O.I., Gib. 1229/14)

French Prisoners

C. in C., S.A., 1845N/9 and 1137N/13. Request instructions re disposal. Detention on shore at Gibraltar highlyinconvenient. (F.O.C.N.A., 1150/14 to Adty.)
Your 1150/14. C. in C., S.A., 1845/9 and 2113/13 refer. French crew are to be detained as hostages until agreement reached for return of our 5 F.A.A. personnel and emissaries of de Gaulle held at Dakar. (Hd. of M., 1025/14)
5 Officers and 62 men of French Submarine AJAX sunk off Dakar are arriving shortly at Gibraltar and will be held as hostages for the eturn of the emissaries of de Gaulle and 3 Officers and 2 men of the F.A.A. detained at Dakar. C. in C., South Atlantic on 3rd October proposed the exchanged to Governor General of Dakar, who referred to Vichy, but no reply has yet been received. Request you ask French N.A. to take up urgently question of exchange with French Admiralty on basis of the proposal made by C. in C.,, South Atlantic. (hd. of M. 2024/14 to N.A. Madrid)
Your 0021/4 (not to F.O.C.N.A.) 1845/9 and 1137/13. In order to accelerate negotiations French Admiralty is being approached through N.A. Madrid. Request you state the proposal made by you to Governor General, Dakar and th number of de Gaulle's men whom it is desired to recover in addition to the 5 British named in your 0021/4.(Hd. of M. 1016/14 to C. in C., S.A.)

Vichy Areas

Report No 1. Gaboon. Only still held for Vichy area inclusive Libreville, Njolo, Lamgarane-Gentil. Also Mitzie as small isolated place. Advance by Free French Ovum to Boua proceeding. Reliably informed Admiral French W. Africa has proclaimed a mined area off Libreville. (G.O.C., W. Africa to W.O., 1300/13, recd. from W.O., 2120/14)

French Shipping

Your 1849/12 para 3. Not clear what reference is meant as there is no (c) in my 1957/5. Also does this instruction apply generally or to the particular patrol referred to in rest of signal.Ref. (b) of my 1957/5. It is assumed any warships escorting merchant ships to West African ports south of Dakar should be turned back with Merchant ships if force is sufficient to do do, the Merchant ship not being otherwise interfered with, this was intended. (C. in C., S.A. 1353/14 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd

Cruiser Patrol

Your 1849/12. D Class Cruisers carrying out centre patrol from Freetown would have four days on patrol allowing 22½ for high speed if required but could make one turn round fuelling at St. Vincent Cape Verde Islands, giving two five day patrols. Consider patrol if placed should be on northern route extending about 40 miles nearer coast than suggested. Presence of patrol would soon be known once ships were intercepted or by air reconnaissance which now extends almost daily to Freetown. Air Forces at Dakar recently reported increased. If patrol and object became known possibility of air or submarine action or Cruiser being sent out to release ships detained. No support available Freetown and a weak force on patrol might invite reprisals.
Desirable to route convoy west of Cape Verde Island while Patrol was in operation. For traffic across Atlantic recommend A.M.C. patrolling 500-600 miles to west of Dakar north or south of Cape Verde Islands and for route from north an 8 inch Cruiser with two or more Destroyers or in any case an 8 inch Cruiser to support D. class. Cruiser's aircraft would be of great importance. (C. in C., S.A., 1731/14 to Adty.)

North Atlantic

German M.V's

Reported some German merchant ships may leave Vigo tonight. (F.O.C.N.A., 2121/14)

RENOWN

Propose revert to 6 hours notice for 56 hours from 0001/15 etc., (S.O.Force H., 0901/14) Approved (D.O.D. (F) 1210/14)

Gibraltar Aircraft

In event of Gibraltar becoming untenable as a base proposed to Air Ministry by O.C. R.A.F. Gibraltar that aircraft of 200 group should be flown to Malta and thence on to Egypt and that personnel should be evacuated to follow via Takoradi. Since under above conditions cable ship MIRROR will also have to leave, propose she should embark about 200 of these R.A.F. for passage to Freetown. (F.O.C.N.A., 1154/14 to Adty.)

STARLING

Your 1912/12. Aircraft which attacked SS STARLING considered more likely to have been a German long range 4 engined FoKker Wulf operating from Bordeaux. (D.D.I.C. to F.O.C.N.A., 1802/14)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

MALOJA
ESPERANCE BAY

My 1657/10. To exchange duties from midnight 15-16/10. Destinations. (D.O.D. (F) 1254/14)

BRECONSHIRE

C. in C. S.A., 1107N/6. Arrived Capetown 14/10. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1803Z/14)

Mediterranean

PARTHIAN
Attacked

PARTHIAN reports unsuccessfully attacked in 33.23 N., 21.55 E at 2015/12 presumably by submerged submarine. 2 torpedoes fired and avoided. Stresses vital importance of efficient zigzag on moonlight nights. (Capt. S. 1. 0005/14)

Air
Reconnaissance

Results 12/10 by 230 Sqdn. to locate enemy forces in E. Med. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1148/14)

PANDORA

Cancel exercise. Proceed on patrol keeping well clear of trawlers on U/B hunt.
SINDONIS join hunt. (N.O.I.C., Alexandria 1431/14 to PANDORA)

BERWICK
GLASGOW

My 1653/11. On completion of operation with Force D. BERWICK to cease to be a unit of Home Fleet. To proceed Mediterranean (date) (D.O.D. (H) 1628/14 to C. in C., H.F.)
My 1655/11. Also necessary to strengthen Med. Fleet by one large 6" cruiser which must be ready to sail (date) Appear GLASGOW most suitable. (D.O.D. (H) to C. in C., H.F., 2225/14)

Air
Operations

R.A.F. Operational Summary No 126 period ending 1200/14.
13/10. 0230- 0310 hours. 1 Bombay 216 Squadron assisted sloop LADYBIRD in night bombardment of Italian positions Sidi Barrani by dropping flares over target area. Heavy bombs and incendiaries also dropped on position to coincide with bombardment, numerous fires caused. 1830 hours, 2 Blenheims 211 Squadron attacked military and naval buildings along north foreshore Tobruk harbour from 15,000 feet by night, their bombs falling on north side of town and near oil tanks. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1147/14)

/Coming Operations..

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Coming Operations	Admty. 1911/10. This can be done. Proposals and plans. (C. in C., Med., 1421/14) See Mediterranean Volume.
Operation M.B. 6. 8-14/10	Long report of operation period 8/10-14/10. All available ships including all 4 battleships. Convoy of 4 M.V's with Malta supplies escorted by 2 A/A cruisers and 4 destroyers. MALAYA possibly attacked by submarine 33.11 N. 27.20 E at 0530/9. Submarine sighted by aircraft 36.31 N., 20.20 E., at 1100/10 and 35.37 N., 19.54 E at 1430/10. Former severely depth charged, almost certainly damaged by VAMPIRE. Convoy arrived 8 hour late at 1600/11. IMPERIAL mined off Hard Bak (my 1156/11) COVENTRY cut a mine withbparavane on way in. Attack on Tripoli had to be cancelled. Convoy ex-Malta with escort sailed 2100/12, PLUMLEAF, VOLO and APHIS. AJAX action with destroyers 0230/12. Aircraft reported Fleet 0815/12. Bombing attacks made 1230 to 1600 up to 50 aircraft. No damage. AJAX and 2 destroyers detached at 0700/13 to escort A.B. 4.from Algean. ILLUSTRIOUS, 2 of 3rd C.S. and 4 destroyers detached noon/13 for moonlight air attack on Port Lago. Surprise achieved. All aircraft returned. (C. in C., Med., 1045/14, amended 2304/14)
Spain	Biweekly report. Situation clearer. (N.A. Madrid, 1915/14)
LIVERPOOL Torpedoed	Torpedoed at 1855/14 (see 15/10)
Operations, Press Communique	Intend issuing following to Press tomorrow 15/10. (2) Our Naval Force whilst operating off Malta made contact withnenemy about 80 miles S.E. of Sicily at 0230/12. (3) AJAX sighted 3 of Italian Destroyer IAKUNE Class of destroyers at this time and sank 2 outright. Shortly afterwards sighte a large cruiser and four destroyers. She crippled one of these destroyers but lost touch in darkness with remainder who made off

/Supporting.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operations Press Communique Contd.

Supporting Cruiser came to help of AJAX and assisted by aircraft found the damaged Destroyer at dawn in tow of a companion who had gallantly come to her assistance. Towing Destroyer then slipped tow and escaped at high speed toward Sicily under cover of smoke.
(4) Damaged ship was latest Class of Large Italian Destroyers and was Italian Destroyer ARTIGLIERE. On arrival of YORK, ARTIGLIERE started to abandon ship and after allowing a further ½ hour for this process ship was sunk by our fire.
(5) Boats and rafts for survivors were supplemented by rafts from H.M.S. YORK and Wireless Message was broadcast on the commercial wave to Italian Station giving the position of Survivors, though this compromised position of the British Fleet. Weather was fine and Sicily at no great distance and experience at sinking of Italian Cruiser BARTOLOMEO COLLEONE on 19/7 when our rescuing destroyers were bombed by Italian Air Force and one of them damaged made it unjustifiable for our ships to take any further measures particularly in view of close proximity of Italian Air Concentrations and presence of submarines.
(6) During this spirited and successful action AJAX had few casualties and only superficial damage above waterline which is quickly repairable whilst ship continuing her work with fleet.
(7) Following on this action the enemy attacked our fleet with aircraft over a period of four hours. There were no hits or damage but four enemy Aircraft were shot down by our FIghters and gunfire for certain and two more were probably also destroyed. All our aircraft returned.
(8) F.A.A. attacked Port Lago in Dodecanese at about 2300/13 achieving complete surprise barracks, workshops, hangers and a petrol tank were hit and set on fire. All our Aircraft returned. (C. in C., Med. 1200/14)

Operation, TRITON LADYBIRD

TRITON reports sinking one 5000 ton D.E.M.S. escorted by two M.A.S. off Genoa and one 3,000 ton ship in Vado Roads. Savona bombarded fire in Vado possibly from gas works. Date of the incident not yet known.

/LADYBIRD.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operation. TRITON LADYBIRD, Contd.

LADYBIRD in co-operation with R.A.F. bombing attacked Sid Barrani and carried out a successful night bombardment at 0230/13. (3) Intend issuing the following communique:- "During the period 1-14/10 one of our naval units successfully attacked and bombarded military objectives in the port of Savona. Also a submarine sank a 5000 ton supply ship off Genoa and a 3000 ton ship in Vado Road. On the night of 12-13/10 a naval unit working in co-operation with the R.A.F. successfully bombarded enemy concentrations at Sidi Barrani" (C. in C., Med. 1053/14)

East Indies

Djibuti Supplies

Consul informs Governor Aden "Train arrived at Djibuti from Ethiopia 9/10 with 60 tons grain 40 tons flour, 5 tons vegetable oil. Same evening train left for Ethiopia contents not yet known but reported to be coal and oil" Italian delivery possibly or confidence in early military successes to relieve situation in Ethiopia. (S.N.O., Red Sea, 0804Z/14)

Red Sea Dhows

Admty 2011/13. Not clear whether action against dhows proposed my 0616/1 may be taken as from 17/10. (C. in C., E.I., 0620Z/14)

EUTHALIA

My 1058/11 (increased number of Greek ships calling at Lourenco Marques) and N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1420/14. Greek EUTHALIA sailed for Capetown due 20/10. (C. in C., E.I., 0624/14)

PARRAMATTA Air Escort

PARRAMATTA escorting B.S. 6¼ bombed 5 miles S. of Centre Peak Island, Red Sea, 0845Z/14. No damage reported. (C. in C., E.I., 1056/14)

Air Report

(No Naval incidents) 12/10 and 13/10. S.A.A.F. made extensive reconnaissances over enemy territory and coastal patrols Mombasa and Zanzibar. No enemy movements observed. One warship escorted in Mombasa. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1150/14)

B.S. 6¼

Intelligence Summary No 124 for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 14/10. 2 S. 81's or possibly JU 52's approached convoy B.S. 6¼ near Zubair Island 15° N 42' E., but abandoned incipient attack on encountering 1 Blenheim 4 203 Squadron which twice

/Attacked...

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

B.S. 6¼ Air Escort, Contd.

attacked 1 firing 1300 rounds with no observed damaged. Attack broken off at 150 yards. 2 Blenheim 4's 203nSquadron kept fightg patrol over convoy B.S. 6¼ 0315 to 0450 and 0 0704 to 1115. All times G.M.T. (A.H.Q., Aden 1729/14)

China

FALCON

My 0535/23/9. Do not intend to lay up FALCON at present. (C. in C., China, 0251/14)

DUMONT D'URVILLE

French sloop, arrived 13/10 Saigon (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 08332/14)

Japan

Your 0449/6 para (a) Request consideration to an upper limit of 3,000 tons and a Northern limit of Hong Kong.
Concur with your intended policy and para (f) If diversion becomes necessary, any further signal from Admiralty will be confined to instructing you to bring your policy into effect. (D.T.D., 1159/14 to C. in C., China)

America & West Indies

Troop Transport

Your 2216/23 and my 1121/26. Military would appreciate information re situation re-garding ships and escort for approx. 6,000 troops. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1134/14)

M.V's to be lighted

Your 1803/13. Following may be promulgated to all British Merchant vessels by Admty. letter message:-
British Merchant ships in areas 8 and 10 when on coastal route of North or South America are to burn navigation lights at normal brilliance and proceed undarkened. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1251/14)

Australia

CHINA

Panamanian tanker from Behrein 22/7 to Fremantle, not arrived. (A.C.N.B., 01452/14)
My 0145. CHINA arrived 14/10 (A.C.N.V. 1222/14)

New Zealand

Raider

Your 2306/Z/13. Now known raider which sank HAXBY did not lay mines off Cape Agulhas. Maximum speed of raiders not likely to exceed 16 or 17 knots (D.D.I.C. to S.O.I. Wellington 1852/14)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Monday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Vigo	Reported some German ships may leave Vigo tonight. (F.O.C.N.A., 2121/14, D.D.I.C., 1925/14, V.A.S. to submarines on patrol, area B 2149/14)
CERRIGO	A. 2. report from Guayaquil, will sail this week for Japan, Japanese flag being hoisted outside territorial waters. (S.O.I., Callas, 1847/14)
EISENACH	My 1158/12. Coal bunkers not obtainable at Manzanillo, Mexico, but small quantity available if 10 days notice given. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1021/14)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.10.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

LOGICIAN (Escaped 25/9)

Master of LOGICIAN Harrison reports that 2310 G.M.T. 25/9 in position 054° 53' 010° 22' shortly after MANCHESTER BRIGADE was torpedoed vessel struck submerged object possibly submarine.

EMPIRE OCELOT (Escaped 28/9)

28/9, 1350, 054° 58' 021° 50' EMPIRE OCELOT in convoy torpedoed 1400 sighted periscope starboard quarter 1000 yards opened fire fourth round appeared to hit 1510 intercepted wireless message submarine on the surface 054° 50' 021° 51'. Examination carried out by local diver who reported paint scraped off three places on either side of keel guard, scoring 4 feet by 4 inches plating apparently undamaged vessel making no water. Master requests owners be informed. (Reporting Off Barbados. 1815/14)

ORAO

My 1600/12. Crew of ORAO and armed guard from HOTSPUR landed Gibraltar. No casualties. (F.O.C.N.A., 1553/14)

H.M.S. CHESHIRE Torpedoed

Explosion on board, position 55.13 N., 13.02 (CHESHIRE, 1931Z/14) Struck by torpedo. My position, course and speed at commencement of current watch 55.13 N., 13.02 W., 254°., 10 knots. (CHESHIRE, 1940Z/14 to Lands End Radio) Struck by torpedo starboard side forward at 1930 G.M.T. position course and spee 55.13 N., 13.10 W., 116° 8 knots. (CHESHIRE, 2006/14 to C. in C., W.A.,) Tugs SUPERMAN and SEAMAN to intercept and escort. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 2236/14) My position course and speed are 55.04 N., 12.40 W., 080°, 6 knots. No casualties. (CHESHIRE, 2359/14)

H.M.S.LIVERPOOL

Torpedoed at 1855/14 by a/c (see 15/10) Mediterranean)

PARTHIAN

Attacked 9015/12. (See Mediterranean)

HURUNI

Sunk by torpedo 2315/14. (See 15/10)

DOURO

Stopped by U-Boat 1940/12 (See submarines reported)

EMPIRE AUDACITY

Contacted by aircraft 1110/14 in 53.29 N., 4.15 W., course 088° speed 10 knots. No apparent damage or list. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1225/14)

/EMMA BAKKE.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

EMMA BAKKE (Torpedoed 11/10) Incorrectly reported, see 15/10 — Contacted by aircraft 0902/14 in 53.32 N., 4.10 W., course 090° speed 10 knots. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q., 1225/14)

Convoys, Surface Attacks — Analysis of U-Boat attacks made on ships actually in convoy show that during August 10 convoys were attacked, 7 by night and 3 by day. During September 9 convoys were attacked 7 by night and 2 by day. In only 4 of the 14 night attacks was any Asdic contact made by escorting ships. These figures do not include attacks on stragglers. On evidence available, conclusion reached is that U-Boats probably close on surface preferably on bow of convoy relying on small silhouette to escape detection and top surface speed to effect retreat. U-Boats in other words are being used at Torpedo Boats. Attack is probably pressed as close home as considered safe bu possibility of use of long range slow speed torpedo exists. D.A./S.W. 2027/14)

Submarines Reported

1605 — D.F. 59° N., 10° W at 1605 (C. in C., W.A. 1653/14)

1709 — D.F. 55° N.,-55° 30' N., 12°-13° W., probable U-Boat unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1804/14)

1926 — Air reconnaissance today reports submarine in Namsen Fiord, 64.30 N., 11.20 E., (C. in C., Rosyth, 1926/14)

1700 — U-Boat in 55½30 N., 12.30 W., at 1700/14 may be shadowing you. (C. in C., W.A., 1753/14 to ABERDEEN)

2031 — 55.13 N., 13.02 W., reliable fix. (A.C.W.A., 2119/14) (CHESHIRE torpedoed)

1940/12 — Portuguese fishing boat DOURO stopped 12/10 1940, by U-Boat 35.52' N., 10.35' W., and allowed to proceed. (N.C.S.O., Lisbon, 1819/14)

1940 — In Fair Island Channel or N. of Shetlands, very indefinite. (D.S. 406)

/Estimated.....

MOSTSECRET

War Diary

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Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: 2 between Spain and Azores, no recent news.
German : 1 somewhere about 43° North 16° West at 0410/14.
1 in about 54 ° North 20° West at 1108/14.
1 in area 57° North to 58° North. 16° to 19° West at 0207/14
1 in Eastern part of N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
(D.D.I.C. 1243/14)

Submarines Attacked

0539/8 Submarine Sunk

TRIDENT reports at 0539/8 in position 047° 28' N., 003° 25' W 500 ton U-Boat hit by gunfire and presumed sunk. Enemy course 345°. Considerable anti-submarine surface activity with air cooperation 1 /10 and 12/10 by armed trawlers and "E" boats towing sweeps. (V.A.S. 2311/14)

1350/28

By EMPIRE OCELOT (See Ships Attacked)

Assessments

Best method of assessing enemy U-Boat losses has been under consideration.
In Home Waters and Atlantic operations final assessment is made by a committee at Admiralty. This system will continue.
In Mediterranean and East Indies operations it appears probable more evidence is available to the C. in C., than to Admiralty Committee and it is therefore felt that final assessment should rest with him.
Subject to your concurrence this system will be adopted.
To bring Admiralty records up to date, report requested of your final assessment of all attacks carried out since the outbreak of war with Italy. (D.A.S.W., 2028/14 to C. in C's Med. and E.I.)

(21)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.10.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation D.H.

HOOD and 3 destroyers left Scapa 1600 today to R.V. with Force D. in 68° N., 0° 40' E., at 0800/17 and cover the operation of FURIOUS, NORFOLK and BERWICK off the coast of Norway.

"R" Boats off Dover

At 1242 today 6 "R" boats were seen proceeding westward about 9 miles off Dover, and were later fired at by the batteries, but all rounds fell short.

British Air Activity

R.A.F. last night attacked Havre, docks at Hamburg and Emden.

Owing to unfavourable weather Bomber Command carried out no operations today.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.10.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy F.S. 8 was bombed off the Thames Estuary this morning. No report of damage has been received.

Convoy F.S. 9 was bombed this morning in the Thames Estuary, but was undamaged.

Damage was caused at the London Docks this morning and again this evening.

The R.V.Y. Deptford was damaged this evening.

Mining

Operation B.S. 41 TEVIOT BANK escorted by 2 destroyers laid mines today in the East Coast Mine Barrier.

MISTLETOE (Parachute Patrol vessel) was mined and sunk off the entrance to the Humber this morning.

Enemy minelaying aircraft operated last night off the East Coast.

Mines were found off South Goodwin Light Vessel and off Falmouth.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.10.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

C. in C., S.A. reports that TOUAREG has arrived at Duala and is now under Free French guard.

Mediterranean

A Sunderland proceeded this morning to search for submarine REGENT possibly proceeding on the surface and unable to dive, south of Zante. REGENT was not located.

A French aircraft landed at Kalafranca this morning. The pilot stated that he was one of two being flown to join RICHELIEU, to which they belonged.
Search was carried out for the missing plane without success.

On the night 13/14 R.A.F. attacked Benghazi. Amongst other targets hit was a ship alongside the Molo d'Italia, the largest ship in the harbour.

R.A.F. yesterday attacked Bardia. Results were not observed.

East Indies

Blenheims today bombed Diredawa.

A convoy in Perrim Straits was attacked today by 3 Italian aircraft. The attack was repulsed by the Blenheim escort. One enemy aircraft was probably destroyed.

MOST SECRET

15.10.1940
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Escort Groups

My 1457/14. For ST MARYS read BRIGHTON (C. in C., W.A., 1053/15 to Capt D. Liverpool)

2nd Towns Flotilla

382. Your 1840/4. Propose that BATH, CHARLESTOWN, ST ALBANS and ST MARY'S of second Towns flotilla should join R.A.M.L. after working up at Scapa and that WHITEHALL, VANSITTART, WITHERINGTON and VISCOUNT should then return to the Western Approaches Command for escort duty. (C. in C., W.A., 110/15 to Adty.)

1. Concur; that when ready for sea BATH, CHARLESTOWN, ST ALBANS and ST. MARYS should be sailed for Scapa to be worked up, after which they should join R.A.M.L. as permanent escort force.

2. WHITEHALL, VANSITTART and WITHERINGTON should then rejoin 17th D.F. for escort duties as detailed by C. in C., W.A.

3. VISCOUNT should on completion of repairs rejoin 11th D.F.
(D.O.D.H. 1600/15 to C. in C., W.A)

Patrol Groups in Channel.

Your 2115/14. Off-shore patrols in the Portsmouth Command are I think more liable to tip-and-run owing to short distance from Cherbourg. Off-shore patrols are being moved further from coast clear of traffic routes as stated in my 1407/14

All Merchant Shipping sailed to East or West from Portsmouth is escorted except for small vessels that hug the coast.

The only drawback, therefore, in the Portsmouth Command is that our own forces may be sent out to operate and cross patrol lines before the patrol craft receive a signal. There are, however, two gaps each four miles in width (see 3rd para. of my 1407/14) through which our forces could pass in an emergency. It is a question of balancing.

The enemy have now tasted blood and will no doubt repeat their recent operation unless we take steps to counter it and I can think of no other counter than operating patrols in groups with orders to shoot at sight.
(C. in C., Portsmouth, 1533/15 to C. in C., W.A.)

/HOOD.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.10.1940
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy-Contd.

HOOD

Adty's. 1830/8. HOOD will not be taken in hand for the present. (V.C.N.S. 1555/15 to C. in C., H.F.)

Northern Patrol Request for 5 T.B.D's.

Between 22/8 and 16/10. Northern and Western Patrol sailings were out 17, in 16, total o 33, of which 10 only have been escorted and 4 of these escorts were due to A.M.C's carrying troops or joining a troop convoy.

I estimate Patrol Escort requirements would provide full time employment for 5 T.B.D's an suggest that this number be allocated to my command for this purpose.

The first O.B.V's coming into service will be sailed out with convoys but difficulty may occur in joining them up with convoys for in escort. (F.O.C.N.P., 1818/15 to C. in C., H.F.

GLASGOW

Your 2225/14. (Cruiser for Mediterranean Fleet Concur that GLASGOW is the most suitable ship. (C. in C., H.F. 1837/15 to Adty.)

Destroyers for Mediterranean Fleet

Your 1139/14 and my 0118/1.
It has now been decided to reinforce C. in C., Mediterranean with BARHAM and four modern destroyers.
2. INGLEFIELD, ECHO, ECLIPSE and ESCAPADE were sent out with BARHAM at short notice. First 3 now due for refit, repair, or are damaged.
3. It was therefore decided to reinforce the Mediterranean Fleet with four of the 13th D.F, replacing them from Home Waters.
4. FAME, FOXHOUND, and FEARLESS were proposed in order to concentrate the "F" Class at Gibraltar.
5. It is desired to repair FORESIGHT at home owing to the difficulty of completely refitting W/T installation at Gibraltar. She will subsequently rejoin Force H.
6. Reference F.O.C.N.A's 1746/1, as Capt.D.3. and INGLEFIELD were required in the Home Fleet by your 1005/2/10, DUNCAN was proposed as leader of 13th D.F.
KEPPEL's endurance is too low for service with Force H, with which 13th D.F. have to operate. (A.C.N.S.H. 2237/15 to C. in C., H.F.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.10.1940
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE — At 0200/15. (D.C. 0150/15) At 1400/15 (D.C. 1401/15)

Movements

KING GEORGE V "UNION" — Asking for fighter protection for her, escorted by 2 cruisers and 6 destroyers from Tyne to Firth of Forth 0430/17- 1300/17. Code word "UNION" (A.C.N.S.(H) 1011/15) Orders for destroyers for acoustic sweep (C. in C., Rosyth, 1545/15, C. in C., H.F. 1838/15)

BOUCLIER — Sailing postponed for 24 hours owing to weather (C. in C., W.A. 1035/15)

REVENGE "BOARD" — Intend to sail, escorted by WANDERER, WITCH VOLUNTEER, BURZA from Spithead at 1830/15 for Plymouth. Code word "BOARD" (C. in C., Portsmouth 1223/15)

Portsmouth — Night movement signal (1233/15, 1850/15)

Dover — Patrols tonight (V.A.Dover 1508/15, 1906/15)

Orkneys — Movements tonight (A.C.O.S. 1531/15, 1909/15)

Northern Patrol — Trawler line tonight (A.C.O.S. 1536/15)

Western Channel — Night report (C. in C., W.A. 1545/15)

CAMITO — Leave Clyde 19/10 for Area M.3. (F.O.C.N.P. 1720/15)

Nore — S.O.Patrol (C. in C., Nore, 1750/15)

Corvettes for Convoy Escort Groups — Alloted as follows (Capt D. Liverpool, 1815/15) Following additional destroyers available (C. in C., W.A., 1903/15)

HIGHLANDER HAVELOCK — Position, course, speed. (HIGHLANDER 2310/15)

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Iceland.

Your 1712/14. (Withdrawal of Walrus aircraft). This is practicable, given fine weather. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0940/15 to Adty.).

A/M. 2028/7. It has now been decided that no troops will be sent in ARGUS. (D.O.D.H. 1502/15 to ARGUS).

1. ARGUS will be required to sail from Clyde P.M. 18.
2. She will proceed to Reykjavik to embark 701 squadron.
3. Essential she be sailed from Iceland to arrive Clyde by 26/10.
4. Destroyer escort will be required to accompany ARGUS and return with her.
5. C.in C. H.F. requested to provide at least one destroyer.
6. C.in C. W.A. requested to provide 2 destroyers and to sail and route ships. (D.O.D. H. 1649/15 to C.in C. W.A.).

Sinking of Enemy Convoy on 14/10.

My 2214/14. On evidence of 2 experienced R.N.R. Officers it is now considered that smaller ships were of 5000 tons displacement. M/V's made considerable use of smoke apparatus. (C.in C. H.F. 1024/15 to Adty.)

KING GEORGE V.

Operation S.A. Zero Time 1050/17. (KING GEORGE V, 1410/15 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Operation P.S. EREBUS.

Carry out operation tonight. Zero time 001/16. EREBUS and Destroyers sail from Sheerness at 1700/15. Code Word ADAPT. (C.in C. Nore 1046/15 to EREBUS, D. 21). Destroyers taking part CAMPBELL, WALPOLE, GARTH. (C.in C. Nore 1426/15 to Adty.)

M.T.B's off Belgian Coast.

Weather permitting M.T.B's 14and 16 are to operate off Belgian Coast from Nieuport to Flushing tonight starting from Nieuport at 0001/16. Any vessel met East of 2° 30' E. may be attacked without challenge. (C.in C. Nore 1114/15 to BEEHIVE)

Western Channel Patrol.

Patrol B.Y. (C.in C. W.A. 1513/15 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

Force D. (Tromso)

My 1653/12. HOOD and 3 Destroyers left Scapa 1600/15 proceeding West of Shetlands to R/V with Force D at 0800/17 in 68° N. 0° 40' E. (V.A.S. 1603/15 to SEAWOLF).

/ R-Boats .....

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued).

R-Boats shelled from Dover.

At 1242 today six "R" Boats were seen on a bearing 119° Dover about 9 miles proceeding westward. 14 rounds fired from Citadel Battery between 1305 and 1315 and 4 rounds from Langdon Battery at 1425. All fell short. (V.A. Dover 2237/15 to Adty.).

Submarines.

L. 23
H. 34.

C.in C. Rosyth is requested to provide escort for L 23 from Dundee to Scapa and A.C.O.S. is requested to provide escort for H 34 to Rothesay.

L 23 will be ready to leave Dundee 20/10 and H 34 should leave Scapa on arrival of L 23.

WHITE BEAR is not available owing to other commitments.
(V.A.S. 1119/15 to A.C.O.S.)

V.A.S. 1119/15. Request Home Fleet Destroyer escort may be provided. If no Destroyer is available intend that L 23 should be sailed to join O.A. 232 leaving Methil Sunday 20th October.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1733/15 to C.in C. H.F.).

UNIQUE

To be sailed for Portsmouth when ready for service and when Escort can be arranged from Clyde to Falmouth.
(V.A.S. 1121/15 to S.2.)

URSULA

Adty. 1335/12. Request you sail URSULA on 20th for Mediterranean. (V.A.S. 1122/15 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

TIGRIS

My 1431/11. Proceed within 30 miles of Ushant. R/V with CUTTY SARK at 0700/18. Route. (Capt. S.2. 1426/15 to TIGRIS)

You are to sink at sight any M/V encountered south of 49° North.
(Capt. S.2 1823/15 to TIGRIS).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0700/16.
(V.A.S. 1648/15 and 1804/15).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

S A. 1 E. and S A. 2 N.	Patrols cancelled owing to low visibility. (C.in C. Rosyth 1012/15 to Adty.).
Patrol H D.	Ending at dusk every day, to be flown to cover Eastern Approaches to Fair Island Channel to depth of about 40 miles, with object of attacking U-Boats passing Westwards through Channel at night. (A.C.O.S. 1606/15 to Hatston.)
U-Boats at Bordeaux.	Request you arrange heavy Bomber attack at early opportunity on 9 U-Boats at Bordeaux. Order of effort 12 to 14 sorties. (Air Ministry 1737/15 to Bomber Command).

Enemy Air Activity.

Portsmouth.	At 2316/14 a single Aircraft dropped 4 H.E. Bombs in harbour, and incendiary Bombs in harbour and at Whale Island. No apparent damage or casualties. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0308/15 to Adty.) At 0253/15 incendiary Bomb caused small small five in Adty. Seasoning Yard at Flathouse. No damage reported. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0422/15 to Adty.) Slight damage at Whale Island. Estimate £5. (Supt. C.E. Portsmouth 1825/15)
Flares off Eastbourne.	Report from Eastbourne Battery. 8 white parachute flares observed at 2030 bearing 150 degs. from Eastbourne. Flares were proceeded by a dull red trace followed by a column of thick grey smoke. Descent very slow. Flares appeared to burn at sides. Duration lasted four to five minutes. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2105/15 to Adty.)
Convoy F.S.8. bombed.	Enemy aircraft bombing Convoy "AREMA" in 51° 58'N. 1° 40'E. (VEGA 0640/15)
Convoy F.N.9. bombed.	Enemy bombing Convoy F.N. odd in 51° 35'N. 1° 10' E. (LONDONDERRY 1140/15). One bomb no hits (LONDONDERRY 1157/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Aldeburgh. Very heavy underwater Explosion felt about 3 miles North of Aldeburgh. Nothing visible. (VIMIERA 0410/15 to C.in C. Nore).

Harwich. My 1627/14. Mine reported picked up in sweep was apparently dragged during Southern Sweep. It was seen and destroyed 6 cables S. of S.Shipwash Buoy when sighting sweep. Three of the mines sighted are reported as small approximately 30 inches diameter with recessed cover plate and five long horns painted black. Appear new when detonated explosions very violent.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1421/15 to Adty.)

Dover. Request 2 Oropesa Trawlers and one LL Trawler be sent to Dover forthwith. LL Trawler ONETOS now at Yarmouth is preferred. (V.A. Dover 1901/15 to Adty.)

Downs. My 1145/8. One Mine found 1.2 miles 275° from South Goodwin Light Vessel. (V.A. Dover 1904/15 to C.in C. Nore).

Falmouth. Sunk one Floating Mine west of Channel. 2 Mines seen to explode 13/10, one 119° Pendennis 17½ cables, and one 090° St. Anthony one mile. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1940/15 to Adty.).

LORD STAMP. H.M. Trawler. Missing, probably sunk by Mine at 0130/14 in 228° Portland Bill 17 miles. No survivors found (C.in C. Portsmouth 2047/15 to Adty.).

Enemy Intelligence.

Movement of Naval units suspected. German W/T traffic suggests a movement of naval units, possibly destroyers or larger, from the Bight to the southward possibly into the Channel. This movement may commence tonight or at an early date. It is also consistent with an operation in the Southern North Sea or Channel. U/Boats appear to be taking part. (D.D.I.C. 1657/15 to C's-in-C.)

My 1657/15. There are now indications from the nature of the W/T traffic that U-Boats in the North Sea and Atlantic or Channel are concerned and also air forces from Southern Norway and Brest.

The behaviour of the traffic for the last 24 hours is quite abnormal.
(D.D.I.C. 2059/15 to C's in C.)

/ Gironde .....

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence (Continued).

Gironde	A/S patrol by trawlers using 13 kc/s up to 16 miles off coast frequent daily air patrols. Trawler in position 045° 25' North 001° 48' West suspected of being beacon. (TIGRIS 1932/15 to V.A.S.).
Heligoland.	At 2105/15 in 53° 53' N. 6° 35' E., 3 large M/V's steering West. Aircraft report. (V.A.S. 2316/15 to H.28). At 2207 in 53° 35' N. 6° 35' E., six Ships steering 230°. Aircraft report (V.A.S. 2331/15 to H.28).
Kiel.	15 U-boats, 2 Cruiser Minelayers, 8 T.B's (P.I.U. 2355/15 to N.I.D.).
Zone C.1.	STURGEON reports a few small Norwegian M/V's proceed independently coastwise about 2 miles off shore in Zone C.1. (V.A.S. 1246/15 to Adty.).

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Derelict Tanker.	In 57° 14' N. 8° 50' W., sinking slowly. (Aircraft 210. 1010/15 to Oban).
COSSACK.	(Damaged in attack on Enemy Convoy 14/10). My 2214/14. Notice for sea is 12 hours until 0700/16. Completing 1900/16. (C.in C. H.F. 1548/15 to Adty.).
APPLETREE.	H.M. Drifter. Sunk by R.A.F. Pinnace No. 50 at 2015/15 in position 1½ miles E.S.E. of Lismore Light, Oban. Crew saved. Confidential Books lost with Ship. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2345/15 to Adty.)
DROMORE CASTLE.	My 1215/9. Arrived Durban (S.O.I. Cape Town 1035 B/15 to Adty.)
GLENIFFER.	My 1605/11. Arrived Cape Town. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1035 B/15 to Adty.)
SALANDO.	Dutch. (ex German MONI RICKMERS) Due Durban 11/10. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1055 B/15 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys.	Shipping.
H.X. 78.	To alter course. (C.in C. W.A. 1140/15).
O.L. 7.	Amend route. (C.in C. W.A. 110/15).
S.L. 49 B.	R.V. for ROSEMARY. (C.in C. W.A. 1420/15).
S.C. 7.	Meet, 35 ships, SCARBOROUGH (C.in C. W.A. 1410/15). 6 hours late. GLOXINIA rejoined. My position. (ANTELOPE, 2000/15).
O.L.8.	HIGHLANDER and HAVELOCK probably sailing with. (C.in C. W.A. 1117/15).
W.N.24.	ASPHODEL and LA MALOUINE as additional escort (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1010/15).
S.C. 8.	Left Sydney 0516/15. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1500/15).
S.C. 6.	Estonian NORA sailed and has not returned (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1544/14).
O.B. 229.	Sailed. Escort CHELSEA, ARABIS, HELIOTROPE. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1234/15).
F.S.	My 1651/11. F.S. 11 will run as slow convoy and F.S.12 as fast convoy (C.in C. Rosyth 1317/15).
Escorts.	Your 1457/14. Corvettes have been allocated as follows:- 1st Group GLADIOLUS, CLARKIA, GERANIUM. 2nd Group ARABUS, ANEMONE, HELIOTROPE. 3rd Group HEARTSEASE, COREOPSIS. 4th Group PICOTEE and another. (Capt. D. Liverpool 1815/15 to C.in C. W.A.)
	My 1457/14. Following additional Destroyers available for 5th 6th 7th and 8th escort groups. VISCOUNT on completion of repairs. WHITEHALL WITHERINGTON VANSITTART early November. (C.in C. W.A. 1903/15 to Capt. D. (Liverpool)
SVEADROTT CASTOR.	Swedish tankers SVEADROTT and CASTOR leave Goteborg in company at 1000/16 for the U.S.A. (Route). If they fail to report position and/or attempt to avoid passing through Skopen Fiord they should be intercepted and sent into Kirkwall. (D.O.D.(H) 1723/15 V.A.S. 2207/15).
GONDUL.	Swedish W/T announces that she has been refloated and is being towed to Hamburg.

/ D.E.M.S. .....

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.).

D.E.M.S. Gunlayers.

Under consideration to meet with Military Personnel the commitment referred to in Admty. 1842/29/5 and in Admty. letter M/T.D./D.E.M.S.531/40 of 30/6/40. If this policy is adopted, guns of all merchant ships in harbour in a position to use them will be manned by military personnel except that the gunlayers would be provided from the D.E.M.S. Service. To assess the total requirement of personnel F.O's and N.O's in charge and R.N.O's of all U.K. ports to report.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1836/15 amended 1202/16).

Troop Convoys.

Attacks on Convoys

In event of an attack on a Convoy the initial report by Senior Officer of escort is to include a brief report of counter action taken. Details required by A.M. 752 A Z re details to be signalled after attack on convoy giving position, time and date etc. comments on tactics employed by U-boat are to be signalled at next occasion of breaking W/T silence.
(C.in C. W.A. 1931/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Captured Airmen. Admiralty endeavouring arrange through N.A. Madrid for captured French personnel now at Gibraltar to be held as hostages for F.A.A. personnel held at Dakar. Request following three airmen ex 202 Squadron shot down off Casabianca and now held in Morocco be included. (200 Group, 0925/15 to A.M.)

Dakar Trade. My 1731/14. Further details obtained from Masters of Swedish ships. (C.in C. S.A. 1131 N/15).

Libreville mined. G.O.C. W. Africa reports Admiral French West Africa has proclaimed mined area off Libreville. Request further details. (A.D.I.C. 1245/15).

TOUAREG. My 2149/6 and 1851/4. TOUAREG has arrived Duala and is now under Free French Guard. (C.in C. S.A. 1617/15).

Transports. My 1313/5. PENNLAND is now at Freetown. WESTERNLAND arrives 18/10. (C.in C. S.A. 1841/15).

WESTERNLAND and PENNLAND now available further service. Desired to emply them for movements referred to in D. of S.Ts. 1932/6 and your 1755/12. Great importance attached to move from Lagos and Takoradi to Mombasa. If practicable to sunchronise this with WS 3A without delaying convoy request you will do so. Request your intentions for these troop moves also for move of internees from Lagos and Takoradi to Jamaica referred to in D. of S.T's 2126/6/9. (2337/15 to C.in C. S.A.).

French Ships. Gibraltar 1833/15. French owned trawler SERGENT GOUARNE, AISNE, LORIENT from eastward to westward. 1925 SERGENT GOUARNE returned from east to west. (S.O.I., Gib., 1935/15 amended 0601/16).

French Aircraft. At 1301 one French type recco. aircraft over Rock driven off by A/A fire. (Fovr. Gib., 2037/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French (Contd.)

Exchange of Captives. — Admty. 2026/14. Text of message sent to Governor General Dakar by cable on 3/10. Survivors from French submarine AJAX are in British hands. I suggest we should consider an exchange with De Gaullist prisoners in your hands. I should appreciate an early expression of your views on this proposal. I should be grateful if you also inform me whether you have any survivors from British aircraft. (Ends). His reply states he could only refer proposal to his Government, but gave the names of 5 British airmen in his hands. Number of de Gaullist prisoners not known but General de Gaulle being asked if he has information. Original proposal for exchanging came from General de Gaulle see my 2001/28/9.
(C.in C. S.A. 1133 M/15).

THYSVILLE — My 1808/10. THYSVILLE sailed Lisbon for Gibraltar 0030/15 routed territorial waters. As Germans have suffered diplomatic defeat they have threatened to make every effort to sink ship. Request special escort. Ship should arrive Cape St. Vincent 1400/15. (Lisbon 0042/15)

Your 0042/15. WRESTLER ordered to meet THYSVILLE off Cape St. Vincent and to escort her to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A 0631/15).

South Atlantic.

ANTONIOS CHANDRIS — Your 1620/13. No news of second boat. (D.D.I.C. 1246/15 to N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro).

Greek ANTONIOS CHANDRIS, Cardiff to Buenos Ayres reported sunk by raider in 012° N. 035° W. on 8/9. This is third vessel known to have been sunk at dusk or during night in this area. Description of raider unreliable but master states she was 3 island type cargo steamer, about 8000 tons, with two unraked masts, unraked funnel close abaft bridge, counter stern.
(D.D.I.C. 1247/15.)

Overdue Ships. — My 1215/9 and 1605/11. DROMORE CASTLE arrived Durban, GLENIFFER arrived Capetown. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1035 B/15).
Dutch ship SALANDO ex German MONI RICKMERS due Durban 11/10 not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1055 B/15).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN — Admty. 1432/13. Intend to sail from Durban, calling Capetown and arriving Freetown (dates). (ROYAL SOVEREIGN 1345 Z/15)

/ LIVERPOOL .....

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

LIVERPOOL Torpedoed by aircraft.

H.M.S. LIVERPOOL torpedoed in position 33.58 N. 26.23 E. at 1855/14. Taken in tow by ORION and in position 32.52 N. 27.47 E. at 1200/15. Damage appears to be back broken under A turret and bow semi detached. Cover being provided by WARSPITE, VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, Cruisers and Destroyers.
(C.in C. Med. 1215/15).

Crete, defence of.

1st S.L. to C.in C. Med., 1252/15.
(See Mediterran Vl.)

Ships at Haifa.

Two ships ATLANTIC and PACIFIC flying Panamanian flag are expected Haifa 16/10 with undesirable refugees onboard. Understood that the practice is for such vessels to lie off and disembark these persons in small boats on to the foreshore. Most important to prevent this and it is requested that you will give any assistance that is practicable to the Local Authorities. (D.O.D. (F) 2111/5 to C.in C. Med.).

Air Report, REGENT, Station Hospital Ship

Malta air intelligence report to 1700 hours G.M.T./15. Reconnaissances. Sunderland 228 Sqdn. requested at 1000 to locate and shadow Submarine REGENT possibly proceeding on surface and unable to dive 37.36 N., 20.42 E. Submarine not located.
Swordfish 830 Sqdn. sighted hospital ship 36° N. 16.17 E., and packing case and drum, possibly raft, 35.27 N., 17.32 E.
0541, Sunderland en route Alexandria led Italian hospital ship to some floats, 36° N. 16.17 E. At 0640, a French Loire 130 Aircraft approached Malta. Had left Karouba 0430. Was due to be flown by another crew to Morocco to join RICHELIEU. Second French Loire 130 missing.
(Govr., Malta, 1840/15).

Enemy M.V's.

Split reports on 11/10, 40-50 merchant ships fully loaded with food for Albania were seen at Bari, lying in 2 closely packed groups alongside Old and New Moles. (A.1). (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1145/15).

VIDO, sinking.

My 1747/13 (sinking of Yugoslav VIDO in Russian territorial waters). N.A. Belgrade reports that according to owner crew were picked up by Russian warship and taken to Sebastopol. Captain landed at Ismail.
(S.O.I., Alexandria, 2185/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Minesweepers.	Observations on Admty. 1036/12, and need for replacing HUNTLEY and DERBY. (C.in C. E.I., 0658 Z/15).
MOGAMIGAWA MARU	Your 0802/10. Agent Bushire states ship came direct from Saigon. As far as known, did not call at any other Iranian port. (S.N.O., Persian Gulf, 0756 Z/15, to C.in C. E.I.).
	My 0802/10. Arrived Mormagoa 22/9, sailed 25/9. (Cargo.) As vessel only spent 6½ hours in Bushire, all cargo presumably still on board. (C.in C. E.I. 1020 Z/15).
QUEEN MARY,) AQUITANIA,) MAURITANIA.)	Asking if special tanker arranged for fuelling. (P.S.T.O. India, 1030 Z/15).

China.

Staff Conversations.	Chiefs of Staff tel. No. 18. Attitude of U.S. Govt. towards proposed conversations with Dutch and ourselves. Proposed exchange of information between Service representatives (1 S.L. 2221/15). Line to be taken in forth-coming conversations. Chiefs of Staff tel. No. 17. (1 S.L. 1856/15)
Saigon.	KINDIA (French) left for Shanghai. SUGIYAMA MARU (Japanese) arrived. (N.C.S.O. Saigon, 0739 Z/15).

America and West Indies.

THAILIA	Following received from Talara. Arrival THAILIA with entire Canadian crew loading crude oil for Japan. Crew will only proceed with approval and protection of Admiralty. Vessel was routed to here by N.C.S.O. Panama and Master holds Confidential Books. Reply urgent confirming foregoing is approved also send route. (Ends). Request instructions. (S.O.I. Callao, 1433/15 to C.in C. A. W.I.) Passed to Admty. Request early instructions (C.in C. A. W.I. 1942/15).

/ Town Class .....

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Continued)

Town Class Destroyers. My 1541/11. Route (B.S. 3. 1201/15).

Movements. Sydney departure 15/10, 0516 B.S.T. S.C.8. Halifax departures, BEVERLEY, BELMONT, BROADWAY, BROADWATER for St. John's N.F. Halifax arrival, RAJPUTANA. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1500/15).

NORA. Admty. 114/14. Estonian NORA definitely sailed from Sydney C.B. in S.C.6 and has not returned. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 1544/14, received 0138/15).

Australia.

COMMISSAIRE RAMEL. Overdue. Asking re publication. (A.C.N.B., 1705/15)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

GEDANIA Cargo of whale oil, left here early a.m. destination not known. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1000/15) (F.O.C.N.A. 1447/15, D.D.I.C., 1650/15 C.in C. S.A. 2237/15). SALOPIAN and CIRCASSIA to carry out sweep. (F.O.C.N.P., 1754/15).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

AQUILEJA Hospital ship. Ordered 13/10 to put into Augusta and await orders. Believed to have on board survivors from destroyers sunk by AJAX. (D.S. 406).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

KINDIA Left 15/10 for Shanghai (N.C.S.O. Saigon 0739 Z/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CHESHIRE (torpedoed 14/10). Position course and speed at 0800 B.S.T. (CHESHIRE, 0631/15). Position course and speed at 1100/15, 55.08 N., 11.38 W., 079°, 4 knots. Steaming party on board, remainder in SKEENA. No casualties. (CHESHIRE, 1109/15) Being towed stern first to Clyde by tugs. Position. (CHESHIRE, 1642/15). Asking if further assistance required. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2120/15). Reply. No. (CHESHIRE, 2250/15) Have 220 officers and ratings on board. Small steaming party in CHESHIRE. If weather holds, salvage appears very good. (SKEENA, 1748/15).

HURUNUI British, 10,023 tons. Sunk by torpedo 2315 in position 58.58 N., 09.54 W. Survivors in ST. MARGARET. (FOWEY 0001/15). In Convoy O.A. 228. Bound from London to Auckland in ballast. (D.S. 406.)

BONHEUR
BRITISH GLORY Torpedoed 57° 10' N. 8° 36' W. 0425/15. BONHEUR sunk. Request tug. Survivors of BONHEUR in SPHERE. PIROUETTE stand by with survivors from BRITISH GLORY (FOLKESTONE 0830/15). Asking permission to proceed to harbour to land 44 survivors, 2 seriously injured. BRITISH GLORY very slowly settled by stern. (PIROUETTE 1140/15, F.O.I.C. Greenock 1140/15). Proceed with survivors to Greenock. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1257/15 to PIROUETTE).

unnamed 0135. Torpedoed (probably in O.B. 228) 57.10 8.36 W., (LEITH 0415/15 (D.S. 406) (see Submarines Reported, 0135).

Submarines reported.

0001. 58.58 N., 09.54 W., reliable fix. (C.in C. W.A. 0051/15).

0135. Ship torpedoed position 58.58 N. 09.54 W. Submarine probably trying to get ahead of convoy for second attack. (H.Q. 18 Reconnaissance Group, 0135/15).

0108. 54° N., 11° to 13° W., indefinite. (D.S.406)

0912. 56° N. to 56° 30' N., 18° to 20° W., indefinite. (D.S. 406) (D.D.I.C. 1045/15).

0935. Aircraft report, 47.15 N., 04.55 W., course 280°, 7 knots. (V.A.S. 1226/15).

1330. D.F. probable U/B. 58.30' N., 25° 00' W., unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 1531/15).

1228. Enemy submarine reported 58.30 N., 25.00 W. unreliable fix. (C.in C. W.A. 1531/15).

/ 1527.....

MOST SECRET.

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

1527. D.F. unidentified enemy unit, probably U/B, 52° N., 16° W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1615/15).

0603. D.F. bearing of German naval unit from AWARUA at 0503 G.M.T. was 095° (3). (D.D.I.C. 1155/15).

Estimated U/B dispositions. — Submarines Reported.

Italian - 2 between Spain and Azores, no recent news.
German - Possibly 1 some 250' N.W. of Finisterre
2 or possibly 3 far out in Atlantic between 54° and 58° N. and 17° and 20° W.
Possibly 1 was in about 54° N. between 11° and 13° W. at 0108/15.
1 in 55° 10' N, 13° 25' W. at 2030/14.
1 in 57° 10' N, 8° 36' W. at 0415/15 probably following Convoy O.B. 228.
1 in 58° 58' N. 9° 54' W. at 2315/14 probably outward bound and following Convoy O.A.228.
1 in Northern North Sea homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1248/15).

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation P.S. EREBUS accompanied by 3 destroyers and with cooperation of 2 spotting aircraft bombarded Dunkirk docks last night. 50 rounds were fired and 45 are estimated to have fallen in the target area, though only 5 were spotted. The harbour was apparently empty. There was no retaliatory action whatever against our ships.

M.T.B's off Belgian Coast Two M.T.B's operated off the Belgian coast from Nieuport to Flushing last night.

Patrols in Western Approaches Owing to the possibility of A.P. vessels on patrols in the Dartmouth, Plymouth and Falmouth sub-commands being sunk by enemy light forces before they can make an alarm signal, readjustments of patrols and patrol boats are being made.

Enemy Intelligence There appears to have been considerable movement of shipping last night in a south-westerly direction off the Frisian Is. Aircraft of Bomber Command sighted several groups of merchant vessels and some destroyers, but detailed idenitification was not possible.

German Merchant ship Torpedoed Submarine L.27 reports that she obtained 3 hits on a 7000 ton merchant ship escorted by 7 trawlers off Cherbourg on 15/10.

British Air Activity

Many patrols were cancelled today on account of bad weather, and those flown were mostly ineffective.

Last night, heavy bombers attacked SCHARNHORST, LUTZOW and GNEISENAU at Kiel, but results were not definitely observed. Channel ports, docks at Flushing and Antwerp and gun emplacements at Cape Gris Nez were also attacked.

Aircraft of Coastal Command last night attacked targets at Lorient Terneuzen, Flushing, (in conjunction with a minelaying operation by F.A.A.) Ostend, Brest and Cherbourg.

Near misses were obtained by a Hudson which bombed 5 destroyers 4 miles N of Texel Island at 0410 today.

MOST SECRET

16.10.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy F.N. 9. was bombed early this morning off Smiths Knoll but was undamaged.

Bombs were dropped near the R.A.F., D/F statio Mull Head, Deerness, Orkneys this evening and also on Shapinsay, but no damage or casualties were caused.

Pembroke Dock was attacked twice this evening, but no Naval damage occurred.

Mining

Harpenden aircraft last night laid mines off Kiel.

F.A.A. of Coastal Command last night laid mines off Flushing in conjunction with a strike operation by R.A.F.

One enemy aircraft was seen, suspected laying mines, at the entrance to the Bristol Channel this evening. Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night took place off the East Coast and Thames Estuary; a line of mines is suspected off Aldeburgh.

Aberdeen was closed at 0121/16 owing to suspected enemy minelay but was reopened at 1454.

All traffic in the river between Lambeth Bridge and West India Dock was suspended at 0500 today owing to reported magnetic mines in the river. Navigation was resumed at 1300

A mine was detonated in the Tyne this morning and 3 in the Thames Estuary last night.

M.T.B. 106 was mined and sunk today near Nore Light Vessel.

DUNDALK (Fast minesweeper) was mined today off Harwich and sank after being taken in tow.

/SS ACTIVITY....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining Contd.

SS. ACTIVITY (Coaster) was mined off Foulness today, but subsequently completed her voyage to Greenhithe.

North Atlantic

BARHAM was successfully docked today at Gibraltar.

South Atlantic

Free French ships have been ordered to keep out of sight of Libreville.

Mediterranean

C. in C., Med. reports that the Fleet was attacked twice during the afternoon off 14/10 when South of Crete. No ships were hit. At 1900/14 the Battle Fleet was unsuccessfully attacked by torpedo aircraft, one of which is believed to have been shot down.

The Fleet arrived at Alexandria 0100/16. LIVERPOOL, in tow of ORION, arrived at 1000/16

There was an air raid on Alexandria from 0030 to 0130 today whilst the Fleet was arriving. 9 bombs were dropped but no damage or casualties resulted. There was another raid this evening, but no naval damage resulted.

R.A.F. last night continued their attacks on Italian Bases in Libya. Tobruk, Bardia, Capuzzo and Sollum were attacked.

An air attack was made on Malta this afternoon. No damage or casualties have been reported.

/Effect of.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Effect of Italian Advance

C. in C., Med. reports:-
Sidi Barrani was one of R.A.F. Advanced Landing Grounds and its loss has following effect:-

(a) R.A.F. Bomber and Fighters have to operate from 50 miles further back.

(b) Whereas Fighter protection could previously be afforded to bombarding ships as far as Bardia, such protection is now limited to a point some way short of enemy flank at Sidi-Barrani.

(c) Whereas with Sidi-Barrani F.A.A. torpedo striking forces have been able to attack enemy ports and sea communications as far as Derna, they can now only do so with a great struggle using long range tanks which reduce performance. Furthermore they cannot now have fighter protection for any part of their flight.

(d) Sidi-Barrani in hands of enemy gives him an advanced landing ground within 200 miles of Alexandria and 60 miles of Mersa Matruh. This eneables him to escort his bombers with when bombing Mersa Matruh which effects Naval situation inasmuch as Mersa Matruh is used at advanced base for small bombarding ships such as LADYBIRD and may have to be used to supply Army by sea.

MOST SECRET.

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals. At 0200/16. (D.C. 0221/16) At 1400/16 (D.C. 1433/16).

Rosyth Dockyard. A.A. Gun Defences. Adty. 1011/15. Request additional A/A Cover, including if possible light A/A Gun Defence, to augment Balloon Barrage from 17/10 to about 19/11. (D. of L.D. 1534/16 to Fighter Command)

Movements.

SOUTHAMPTON. C.S.18's 0855/16. Intend pass Gate 1810/16. Expected time of arrival Scapa 1130/17. (SOUTHAMPTON 1244/16 to F.O. Humber.)

Dover. Patrols for night 16/17. (V.A. Dover 1407/16 and 1727/16)

Northern Patrol. Trawler lines on 16/10. (A.C.O.S. 1536/16

Portsmouth. Movements for night 16/17. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1607/16).

Rosyth Area. Movements for night 16/17. (C.in C. Rosyth 1818/16).

CALIFORNIA. Subject to satisfactory completion of trials, will be ready for service p.m/20. Request destination. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2027/16 to Adty).

GLASGOW. DUNCAN. FEARLESS. FOXHOUND. FAME.
GLASGOW, DUNCAN, FEARLESS, FOXHOUND and FAME will be required to leave U.K. on (date) and will then cease to be units of the Home Fleet.
2. GLASGOW will join Mediterranean Fleet.
3. DUNCAN, FEARLESS, FOXHOUND and FAME will join the 13th Flotilla.
4. The above destroyers will form the escort for ARK ROYAL. C.in C. to arrange for them to be ready to sail with her from Liverpool on (date).
5. GLASGOW should be sailed to R/V with ARK ROYAL. Further signal will be made giving instructions for this movements
(ACNS(H) to C-in-C HF, 2040/16)

Operations.

KING GEORGE V. Expect A/S Air Escort from 0715 until reaching May Island. (C.in C. Rosyth 2242/16 to KING GEORGE V).

MOST SECRET.

16.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Iceland.

BEAGLE with 2 destroyers detailed by C.in C. W.A. will be required to screen ARGUS sailing p.m/18 for Reykjavik. BEAGLE to proceed at 0600/17 to Clyde with all convenient despatch. (C.in C. H.F. 0956/16 to BEAGLE). Adty. 1649/15. HURRICANE and ACHATES escort for ARGUS. (C.in C. W.A. 1109/16 to F.O.I.C. Greenock). Adty. 1900/13. HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER escort for ALMANZORA ANTONIA. (C.in C. W.A. 1727/16 to F.O.I.C's Liverpool, Greenock). My 1900/13. EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA will take the place of ALMANZORA. (D.O.D. H. 1755/16 to C.in C.W.A.)

M.T.B's between Boulogne and Gravelines.

Weather permitting, M.T.B's 70 and 5 will leave Dover at 2200/16, returning at daylight 17th. (V.A. Dover 1109/16 to Adty). Operation cancelled on account of weather. (V.A. Dover 2135/16 to Adty).

M.T.B's between Flushing and Ijmuiden.

Weather permitting tonight 60 ft. M.T.B's are to operate on Belgian and Dutch coasts between Nieuport and Hook of Holland. They are not to go north of latitude 52° N. Any vessel met south eastward of line drawn 050° from Westhinder Buoy (C.P.S.C.2226) may be attacked without challenge. Any large concentration of ships encountered should be reported immediately. My 1150/16 for between Nieuport and Hook of Holland read between Flushing and Ijmuiden. Patrol T tonight Wednesday has been cancelled. Any vessel met East of 3 degrees East may be attacked, without challenge. S.O. S/M Harwich should be consulted about movements of own submarines. (C.in C. Nore 1540/16 to Beehive).

Nore Command.

Patrols for night 16/17. (C.in C. Nore. 1134/16). Patrol T tonight has been cancelled (C.in C. Nore 1540/16 to Beehive and 1329/16 to AURORA).

L.27. torpedoed enemy M.V.

My 0200/16. Have obtained 3 hits on 7000 ton M/V escorted by 7 trawlers off Cherbourg. (L.27 0210/16 to Capt: S.5 and C.in C. Portsmouth 1037/16 to Adty). Details of attack (C.in C. Portsmouth 2023/16 to Adty).

/Operation.

MOST SECRET.

16.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation PS. (EREBUS).

50 rounds fired. Spotting conditions ve good with spotter left undisturbed owing to flare-dropper drawing ground defence fire as planned. 5 rounds only spotted due to small burst of C.P.C. shell, but 45 rounds considered to have fallen in target area. W. fires observed on quay Harbour apparently empty. No enemy retaliatory action whatever against ship (C.in C. Nore 1354/16 to Adty).

Patrol O.
Patrol T.

Cancel my 1212/16. If nothing found by Sweepers in Gap E, Patrol O tomorrow wil be by 3 of 21st D.F., and Patrol T by AURORA and 3 of 16th D.F. Routes. (C.in C. Nore 2324/16 to AURORA).

Submarines.

CLYDE.

My 1648/15. Amend position to read 60° 50'N. 22° W. (V.A.S. 0031/16 to Adty),

L.27.

Your 0200. ARCTIC PIONEER will R/V with you in 180° St. Catherines 10 miles. 3 Blenheims detailed as Fighter escort. (Capt: S.5 0552/16 to L.27). Intend to sail L.27 for Area D.4. at 1700/17. Route. (Capt. S.5 2235/16 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

CACHALOT.
TAKU.

Intend to sail CACHALOT and TAKU escorte by SURPRISE from Clyde at 0715/18 for position 270° Bishop Rock 15 miles. CACHALOT and TAKU thence to Patrol. SURPRISE to Plymouth. (S.2 1214/16 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0700/17. (V.A.S. 1553/16).

H.49.

Intend to sail at 1600/17 for Patrol in Zone H.1 Route. (50 S/M's Harwich 1731/16 to V.A.S.)

Bombing Information.

My 1126/2. Lorient and Gironde. (V.A.S.1739/16 to S/M's Area B).

TAKU.

Sails for Patrol in Bay of Biscay 18/10. I am giving her similar permission to that givin to TIGRIS in my 1641/14. (V.A.S. 1844/16 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

16.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Rosyth Air Searches. — Cancel my 1832/15, owing to low visibili (C.in C. Rosyth 0806/16).
Searches for 17/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 1840/16).

Patrols S.A. I.E. — Cancelled, owing to low visibility. (C.in C. Rosyth. 0808/16).

A/C from Iceland. — Adty's 1649/15. 701 Squadron is to be disembarked at Clyde as soon as possible after arrival of ship and sent to a Naval Air Station as directed by R.A.N. A.S. and will subsequently be stationed at Stornoway or Sullom Voe as decided by C.in C.H.F. until required for other service.
(D.N.A.D. 1233/16 to R.A.N.A.S.)

Attack on Coastal Batteries proposed. — Consideration to bombing Coastal Batteries between Calais and Ambleteuse between 0315 and 0545 on 18/10 when C.E.14 will be proceeding between No.10 buoy and South Goodwin Light Vessel.
Dover Gun will co-operate.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1549/16 to Air Ministry).

Patrol H.D. Coastal Command. — Will consist of the following tracks. (Hatston 1641/16 to A.C.O.S).

Coastal Command. — Narrative from 1700/2300. (H.Q.C.C. 2300/16 to Air Ministry).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy F.N.9 attacked. — Enemy aircraft bombing convoy "PILOT" 53° 4'N. 1° 33'E. (Londonderry 0303/16).
My 0803, 8 bombs, no hits.
(Londonderry 0314/16.)

Deptford. — Heavy H.E. Bomb fell on Block 44, Cooperage, at about 2000/15. Details of damage. (Supt. R.V.Y Deptford 0950/16 to Adty.)

Unknown ship attacked. — Unknown ship attacked by A/C bearing 290° Intercept at 1438 G.M.T.
(North Foreland Radio, Recd. 1545/16.)

Balloons containing leaflets. — Following from Military Source begins. Enemy balloons with attachments containing leaflets have been reported from Eastern South East and North Midlands regions. Balloons believed to measure 10 feet - 20 feet and to carry small explosive charges operating by clockwork and intended to scatter leaflets. Care therefore required in handling.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 2351/16 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

16.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Bristol Channel. — Western fitter reports one aircraft suspected minelaying in area 51° 20'N., 51° 40'N, 4° 20'W., 4 °40'W. (C.in C. W.A. 2217/16 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

Aberdeen. — Closed, owing to suspected minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0121/16 to Adty).

Thames. — Owing to reported Magnetic Mines in River, all traffic suspended between Lambeth Bridge and West India Dock. Magnetic coil sweepers working at daybreak. (F.O.I.C. London.0500/16 to Adty).

S.S. ACTIVITY. — S.S. ACTIVITY motor coaster mined 16/10 in 51° 30' 56"N. 0° 55' 00" E. Explosion 8 feet abeam of bridge ship on steady course speed 8 knots ship wiped on20/9. Master first reported explosion as due to bomb but no aerial activity at time. Vessel beached and subsequently refloated and completed voyage to Greenhithe. (C.in C. Nore 0949/18).

Thames Estuary. — 3 Red Mines detonated by sweepers on night 15/16. 2 cables 070° Barrow Deep L.V; one mile 317° East Tongue; and 8 cables 123° N.E. Spit. (C.in C. Nore 0941/16 to Adty).

Tyne. — One ground magnetic mine detonated LL at 0910/16 in 112° North Pier Light 22.5 cables. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0945/16 and 2142/16 to D.M.S.)

Knob L.V. — Large Explosions observed ½ mile from knob L.V. (VERDUN 1148/16 to C.in C. Nore.)

M.T.B.106. — Commodore Sheerness reports M.T.B.106 sunk by Mine 2.5 miles 278° Nore L.V. Crew picked up by attendant Rescue Boat. One minor casualty. (C.in C. Nore 1247/16 to Adty).

Off Aldeburgh. — D.1 reports suspected line of Mines from 52 °12.3'N., 2 °36.5'E at 0506/15. Search will be made at daylight 17th. (C.in C. Nore 1510/16 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

16.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Minelaying Operation. — Your 1819/15. DOUWE AUKES is embarking the mines at Portsmouth a.m. 18th October. Portsmouth No. 5338/01150 of 16/10 gives intended lay out of minefield and explains reason for using fixed moorings. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1907/16 to Adty).

2 E-Boats off Cromer. — 2 Enemy Motor Boats in 52° 56'N., 2° 4'E. (VIVIEN 0015/16)

M/V's in Elbe. — At 0044/15 on south bank of Elbe from Gluckstadt to 2 miles south of Brunsbuttel, 16 large ships up to 6000 tons, apparently stationary. (H.Q.B.C. 0111/16).

3 Destroyers off Texel. — 3 Destroyers in 53° 13'N. 4° 40'E steering 210° at 10 knots. (aircraft of 206 Squadron 0430/16 to Bircham Newton.)

Dutch Coast. — M/V's reported from 2113/15 to 0009/16. (D.C. 0502/16 to V.A.S.)

Gironde. — TIGRIS reports. (V.A.S. 0942/16 to Adty).

Enemy Main Units. — Positions on 15/10. (C.in C. H.F. 1042/16 to V.A.C. B.C.S.) (D.D.I.C. 1541/16 to A.I.G.)

KJOBENHAVN. — Steamer on Aarhus-Copenhagen service suffered an accident off Gilleleje necessitating return to Melsingor and service suspended till further notice. (N.A. Stockholm 1435/16 to D.N.I.)

Brest. — 7 destroyers reported in Rade Abri. (P.R.U. St.Eval 1540/16).

Unknown ship failing to answer challenge. — DANMAN reports unknown small craft 194° Eddystone 18 miles which failed to answer challenge at 2302. (C.in C. W.A. 2337/16 to BROKE, BURZA).

Miscellaneous.

2 Painted Objects. — Following received by R.A.F. from ABERDEEN. Begins. At1830/15 sighted 2 black and red painted PEBLETS just watching and marking on one end of light diesel oil patch ½ of mile long by 20 yards broad in 55° 45' 07° 52'. No contact obtained near position. 0930/16. Ends. (N.O.I.C. Stomoway 1205/16 to C.in C. W.A).

MOST SECRET.

16.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

2 Painted Objects. (Contd.)

Instruct A/S Trawlers carrying out sweep to investigate and recover 2 black and red painted objects reported in position 55 degrees 45' north 07 degrees 52' west at 1830/15.
(C.in C. W.A. 2159/16 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

MOST SECRET.

16.10.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

MARNE.

Following from intercepted cable. French Despatch Vessel MARNE aground 14/10 coast Hainan near Hoihow. (Capt. on Staff, Singapore 0751Z/16 to Adty).

MARLY.

Norwegian, 1115 tons. Bombay Radio Station reports distress message at 2317 G.M.T. ship sinking in 18° 30'N 72° 21'E. Taken to lifeboats at 2337. (S.O. I. Bombay 1052Z/16 to Adty).

CYCLAMEN.

Plummer-block badly wiped. Can steam at moderate speed required for working up. Expect complete working up on 24/10. (WESTERN ISLES 1724/16 to Adty)

HAARLEM.

(Ex-U.S.Destroyer). My 1105 defective. Sailing postponed. (C.in C. W.A.2025/16 F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

A.G.B.A(?).

Reported in "Belfast Telegraph" as sunk in collision with a Norwegian steamer while on passage to Glasgow.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

S.L. 49 B

C.E. 14

O.B. 229

O.B. 228

O.A. 230

S.L. 49 A

E.N. 10

Shipping

6 hours late (C. in C., W.A., 0110/16

Request fighter protection (C. in C., Portsmouth 2003/16)

WHITEHALL left Londonderry for. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0630/16)

LEITH, HEARTSEASE and FOLKESTONE to remain with until 0001/17 and then join S.C. 7. (C. in C., W.A., 1950/16)

CURACOA from Scapa joining about midnight (C. in C., Rosyth, 1946/16) List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Methil 1008/16)

When met transfer to convoy S.L. 49 A Senior Officer H.M.S. ABERDEEN expected Pentland Firth eastbound at 0800/17.
2. On meeting convoy E.N. 10 officer SOUTHERN PRIDE expected Buchanness 2145/17 transfer to that convoy and cover to Pentland Firth. (R.A.D.H.F. 2005/16, to CURACOA) E.N. 10 Route, etc., (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0948/16)

S.C. 8

Draft sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Sydney, C.B. 1702/15 Recd. 0423/16)

Troop Convoys

Escort Groups

C. in C., W.A. 2101/12. Groups detailed as follows. No 1 group SABRE, SKATE, STURDY. No 2 group, SALADIN SCIMITAR SARDONYX SHIKARI (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1631/16)

Navigation Lights

To be burnt by ships off N. and S. America (See America & West Indies)

Convoys and U/Boat Attack

My 2004/14/7 and N.C.S.I. 102, Commodores are to be informed that in future when attacked by a U-Boat the convoy is not to scatter if a local air or surface escort is present or may shortly be expected. (D.T.D. 1504/16)

Convoys and Gunfire, Dispersal

Your 1246/15. Suggestion for dispersal as a safeguard from enemy gunfire by spreading the convoy discussed at convoy conference this a.m.
Considered there are grave objections to proposed plan, but that it might be a solution of the shelling problem and should be tried. Details of objections.
To test the system of spreading, detailed arrangements were made to put your 1246/15 into effect. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1857/16 to C. in C., Nore.)

/W.N. & E.N....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

W.N. & E.N. Convoys

Admty. 1906/4 and 1850/7. Requested that a representative from your Command may attend a meeting at Admiralty Trade Division at 1130/18. to discuss action to be taken to implement Admiralty's proposals re-/garding WN and EN Convoys. Main points in question (details)
Ministry of shipping is pressing for increased facilities for seven knot ships owing to growing accumulation of coastal shipping at Liverpool and the Clyde.
(D.T.D. 2117/16 to C. in C's W.A. and Rosyth)

SVEADROTT
CASTOR

Amending Admty. 1723/15. (D.C. 0022/16)
My 1723/15. N.A.Stockholm states that SVEADROTT and CASTOR will proceed in company to Kristiansand for instructions through German declared area, thence at 8½ knots in accordance with Admiralty route.
SVEADROTT will part company and increase speed to 11½ knots on reaching longitude 09° W. vessels are painted light grey with Swedish flags painted on hull and deck and will burn navigation lights at night. (D.O.D. (H) 1203/16)
Swedish Admty. informs sail at 1000/16. Due Christiansand 17/10 leave again a.m. /18. Route. Am asked whether tanker BERA, oil for Swedish Navy, may be granted safe conduct for Mexican Gulf to Gothenburg under similar conditions to recent return voyage of SVEADROTT (N.A.Stockholm 1610/16, 1739/16) Informing submarines on patrol (V.A.S. 1841/16) Informing F.O.C.I.C.S. (C. in C., H.F)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Libreville — Free French Ships ordered to keep out of sight of (C.S.I., 0935A/16)
Admty. 1245/15 (mined area off Libreville) See my 1220/1. Gen de Gaulle and Spears Mission were informed at the time. (C. in C., S.A. 1139N/16 to Admty.)

BARHAM — Admty. 2113/11. Details of search carried out. Maximum visibility ensured search was 100% efficient. (BARHAM, 1015/16)

Operation — Your 1615/15 to W.O. I will be at Lagos 17/10 and 18/10. Request early information of decision to proceed with operation mentioned, outline of British Naval co-operation desired, and firm date, in order fuelling of ships may be arranged accordingly. Also projected employment of Free French Ships. (C.S.I., 1047A/16 to Spears Mission)

French Submarines — Following from French N.A. on instructions from French Admiralty. French escort Vessel LA BATAILLEUSE, Submarines ESPOIR, VENGEUR, PEGASE and MONGE with tanker LOT will pass Gibraltar about 1200/17 en route Casablanca. They will relieve Submarines LE HERROS, LE GLOIRE, CIRCE and CALYPSO which will then proceed with same escort to Oran. ends. (N.A.Madrid, 1300/16) (See D.O.D.(F) 2237/16)

Patrol — Your 1819/16 para 2. Patrol is being established but distance from Straits being limited to ensure that patrol does not encounter submarines referred to in N.A. Madrid's 1300/16 during dark hours. (S.O. Force H, 2001/16)

Port Gentil — Following received from N.C.S.O. Duala. The French authorities report intercepted signal from Libreville to Port Gentil authorising payment of 200,000 francs to Vichy. French destroyer L'ENTREPRENANT repeated to French Submarine DONCELET 2142/15/10. (S.O.I., Freetown 1142/16, to Admty. etc.,)

/Interception....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

Interception Plans

Concur that arrangements should be made that will meet requirements for situation envisaged.
Unless at least 7 days warning can be obtaine of enemy intentions to move, consider situation envisaged in B.N. 1. will certainly arise and plan to meet this should be worked out in detail.
Conclude prospects of interception of the enemy en route are poor.
Consider at least 15 destroyers of which 9 or possibly 10 available from 8th D.F. and 13th D.F.
Propose transports return U.K. as soon as possible on grounds of security.
Also propose Morford and Waller return to U.K. at earliest opportunity in order to discuss plan. Morford concurs and considers it impracticable to carry out operation envisaged without prior contact with Commanders of other units of his command. (S.O.Force H., 1804/16 to Admty.)

French Intelligence

Conversation with French N.A. including following points.
1. Movements of munitions to Dakar escorted by PRIMAUGUET was in accordance with undertaking given to protect French Colonies against all interference. This is chiefly i French view axis interference. Ships and Dakar to be brought to fighting efficiency
2. No German influence at Dakar.
3. Admiral Lacroix at Dakar very anti Germar
4. Weygand anti Laval and Anti German.
8. Bombing of French Channel ports most effective.
9. French starting Secret Munitions Factori in French Morocco.
French N.A. most cordial but very muddled i loyalties. (N.A.Madrid, 1950/16)

Exchange of Shipping

French N.A. states instructed by French Admty. to open possibility of exchange of all Britisha and Allied merchant vessels an crews held by French against all French merchant vessels held by British Empire. Latter figure 360,000 tons. Former 60,000 tons British and uncertain number allied. Is this to be considered? (N.A.Madrid., to Admty, 1900/16)

/French M.V's....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

French M.V's

Admty. 1439/23/9, 1515/26/9, 2300/30/9. Request action to be taken if a French Merchant ship is intercepted. Should such be treated as neutral oro enemy. (F.O.C.N.P. 2054/16 to Admty.)

Casablanca

N.A.Madrid's 1300/16. French Forces proceeding to and from Casablanca should not be interfered with (D.O.D. (F) 2236/16) Your 2237. Orders have been already issued to this effect. (F.O.C.N.A., 2350/16)

Force H.

Your 1612/16. If by 1400/17 no French forces other than those in N.A.Madrid's 1300/16 have been sighted, ships may revert to normal notice for steam. (V.C.N.S., 2319/16, to Force H.)

PRIMAUGUET

COMMANDANT DOMINE has reported he is returning to Duala now by order of Leclere and that French ship PRESIDENT HOUDACE has already returned to Duala with engine defect. Also rumoured French Cruiser PRIMAUGUET has sailed for South with oiler and 2 submarines. (DELHI 2322/16)

Admty. 2319/16. If ships have reverted to normal notice AUSTRALIA, ECHO, ESCAPADE and transports KARANJA (16 knots) and ETTRICK (14 knots) are to be sailed to Clyde p.m./17.
Opportunity should be taken to reduce numbers for REINO del PACIFICO.
(V.C.N.S. 2333/16)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

General

Raider Situation:- Appreciation

Now known that the raider which left Germany early in April and which sank the HAXBY in 31° 30' N., 51° 30' W., on 24/4 proceeded via Cape Horn to the Pacific laying mines off Aukland on 12/6. This ship captured the TROPIC SEA and probably the NOTOU and TRAKINA.
It is thought that another raider left Germany at about the same time and after sinking the SCIENTIST on about 3/5 laid mines off Cape Agulhas. This ship probably proceeded to the Indian Ocean and could have been responsible for all the losses in that area.
Known and suspected losses in the Atlantic since the sinking of the CYMBELINE on2/9 could have been caused by one raider but it is thought more likely that two have been operating one in the North Atlantic and one in the vicinity of the Equator on the Cape and South America trade routes. (D.D.I.C. 1308/16)

North Atlantic

Portuguese Warships
TEJO
A.ALBUQUERQUE
3 Submarines
TAMEGA

Movements (F.O.C.N.A., 1017/16 to HOTSPUR, SALOPIAN, CIRCASSIA)

KINGSTON SAPPHIRE

My 1320/11. Attitude of Spanish Government appears to be that crew are officially interned but we undersatand that release can probably be obtained. Precedent is the case of the French Sloop wrecked near Vigo.
Have advised Ambassador that Spain cannot claim internment under convention of 1907 article 15 because H.M.G. never ratified this convention; that H.M.G. is bound by convention of 1899 of which only article 10 applies and that article was excluded from ratification by all powers; that men should therefore be released at once. Please confirm. Officers and men are well and in charge of Vice Consul but cannot remain so indefinitely. (N.A. Madrid, 1830/15, to F.O.I.C., Gibraltar)

BARHAM

Was successfully docked this morning in lengthened No. 1. dock. (A.S.Gibraltar, 1230/16)

/Straits Patrol.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic- Contd.

Straits Patrol — Admty. 1819/16, para 2. Patrol is being established but distance from Straits is being limited to ensure that patrol does not encounter submarines referred to in N.A. Madrid's 1300/16. (re French Submarines) during dark hours. (S.O. Force H., 2001/16)

South Atlantic

ROYAL SOVEREIGN — Admty. 1432/13. Request sail to Freetown as soon as completed. (C. in C., S.A., to Capt. i/c Simonstown, 1305/16)

CUMBERLAND — To act as escort to convoy W.S. 3. Slow. Route (C. in C., S.A., 1319N/16)

German Seamen — Brazilian ship DOM PEDROI csailed Montevideo October 14th for Santos. Report graded A.1. stated 27 Germans from crew of German merchant ship at Buenos Aires took passenger DOM PEDROI, though no German appeared in passenger list. This report indirectly confirmed by another report that WINDHUK at Santos is preparing to leave shortly. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1943/16 to ASTURIAS, QUEEN OF BERMUDA)

SELANDIA
LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE — Your 1242/8 and 1246/8. Re employment in carrying troops and stores between Durban and Mombasa. (D. of S.T., to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2114/16)

Mediterranean

REGENT — Orders for entering Grand Harbour (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0907/16)

Alexandria Raid — Air raid 0030 to 0130. 9 bombs, no damage, no casualties, (R.A., Alexandria, 1100/16) (D.S. 408)

Fleet at Alexandria — Arrivals, 14/10 YORK; 15/10, MALAYA, RAMILLES SYDNEY, AJAX, EAGLE and 7 destroyers; 16/10, C. in C., in WARSPITE, with VALIANT ILLUSTRIOUS, GLOUCESTER, LIVERPOOL, ORION, COVENTRY, CALCUTTA, and 9 destroyers. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 1705/16)

/Enemy Units.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Enemy Units

One destroyer 3 merchant vessels, position course and speed of enemy 37.50 N., 15.40 E., 180°, unknown, at 1450. (Capt S. 1. 1741/16)

Torpedo Aircraft Attacks

Italians have achieved 2 notable successes with torpedo aircraft against moon, unseen until too late. Menace serious. To counter, R. direction finding essential. Urge very special efforst to supply. (C. in C., Med. 2203/16 to Admty.)

Convoy A.S.4.

Arrived (N.O.I.C., Port Said. 1837/16)

U-Boats Black Sea

Bucharest report (begins) Reliable sources at Galatz state that four German S/Ms are being constructed, parts arrived mainly by railway to construction yard where men kept under guard have been working for nearly three weeks. 2 Submarines ready. (Ends) Further information being sought. Reliability unassessed. (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1029/16)

Payment of French Fleet

Your 1731/28. Probable monthly expenditure French Fleet is £22,000. Admiral Godfroy informs me Vichy Government is endeavouring to arrange through French N.A. Washington for a monthly sum of one hundred thousand dollars to be transferred to credit of French Fleet in Egypt. I have authorised Cashier Alexandria to advance a loan of five thousand pounds Egyptian to French Fleet to enable wages of Officers and men to be paid. Loan will be refunded if and when credit from Washington is arranged. (C. in C., Med. 1201/16, to Admty.)

Libyan Front Situation

Comments on Admty, 1744/10. (Libyan Front Summary sent by D.N.I. (C. in C., Med. 1559/16- see Situation report)

Jewish Refugees

ATLANTIC MILOS

Admty. 2111/15. Piraeus reports Panama ship ATLANTIC and another steamer name unknown both carrying Jewish refugess arrived and left Mitylene 13/10.
ATLANTIC reported to be carrying 1800 Jews, PACIFIC 1030. Latter painted grey with black funnel.

/My 1057/13.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Jewish Refugees
ATLANTIC
MILOS Contd.

My 1057/13, not to Admiralty, Panama steamship MILOS former MARIA I arrived Piraeus 0700/15 with Jewish refugees.
Ship was refused permission to enter port and sailed at once for unknown destination. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 1211/16)

Air Raid
Alexandria

Air Raid between 1900 and 2145/16. About 20 bombs. One Polish soldier killed and 3 wounded, no other damage. (R.A.Alexandria, 1025/17)

Operation B.S.

Operation B.S. Appendix two. Para 4. Malta. Delete existing Sanctuary and substitute: "between bearing 200° and 250° from and within 25 miles of Dalimara Light. Searched Channel into harbour being made Sanctuary as necessary". T.O.O. 1211/16. (C. in C., Med., 1234/16)

Malta.
Air Reconnaissance
Air Raid

Situation Report up to 1800 hrs. 16/10.
11.36 - 13.57 Skua F.A.A. reconnaissance Eastern Sicilian Ports. Messina- one destroyer and two or three coastal boats. Augusta- one large M/V 6,000 tons and 20 seaplanes. Catania and Syracuse- nil.
At 12.50 reported by W/T one destroyer and three M/M's course 180° position 37.50 North 15.40 East.
14.45. Departed again to relocate position of convoy before deciding to despatch striking force. Landed 17.55 convoy not located although search from Malta to Cape Spartivento and down Eastern Sicilian coast was carried cut. The M/V 6,000 tons which was in August was then leaving on course 28 Landed 17.51.
10.03 - 13.38 One Swordfish of 830 Squadron F.A.A. searched for Swordfish crew who were picked up by Sunderland. On its way back attacked and probably damaged CANT. Z. 501 which had just taken off from patch of oil position sixty miles East of Malta. This was approximately where destroyers were sunk on 12/ 0.
Air alarm sounded 08.10. Six Hurricanes and two Gladiators up but raid did not materialise. (Govr., Gib. 2208/16)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Cargoes Jedda

N.O.I.C. Port Sudan reports local censor frequently intercepts P.L. messages from London, Aden, Bombay and Colombo giving names of ships proceeding with cargoes to Jedda. Enquiries being made. Suggest enquiries London and Bombay. (C. in C., E.I., 0330/16)

U.S. 5 A

Date of sailing from Colombo and arrival Suez. (C. in C., E.I., 1046Z/16)

A.P. 3. S.W. 2.A.

Date of leaving Suez, and to meet U.S..5 A. at Red Sea R.V. Convoy will be called S.W. 2 A. (C. in C., E.I., 1054Z/16)

QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA, MAURETANIA

Estimated fuel and water requirements. Tanker BRITISH COURAGE will be available for fuelling convoy. (D. of S.T. to P.S.T.O. India, Bombay 1633/16)

Dutch Ships Reunion

Your 0744/12. C. in C., N.E.I. confirms that Reunion agent's message was sent to Director at Batavia but K.P.M. Director acting under N.E.I. Govt. instructions does not allow their ships to call at Reunion or Madagascar. (C. in C., China, 0303Z/16, to C. in C., E.I.)

MARLY Distress Message

For Lloyds List from Lloyds Agent, Bombay. Distress Message from SS MARLY 2313 G.M.T. in sinking condition 18.30 N., 92.21 E., Hatch broke down at 2317, sinking at 2337 taken to lifeboats. (S.O.I., Bombay 1052Z/16.)

Italian Submarines Sunk

Admty. 2028/14 paragraph 5 (i) Italian Submarine GALILEO GALILEI captured 19th June (ii) TORRICELLI sunk by KANDAHAR 23/6 (iii) LUIGI GALVANI sunk by FALMOUTH 24/6. (iv) Italian submarine MACALLE struck reef and sank off Port Sudan June. (v) Italian submarine PERLA attacked by KINGSTON 26/6 later found beached. Bombarded and bombed 27/6. Subsequently towed to Massawa believed still there. (C. in C., E.I., 1136Z/16)

/Air Attacks.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Air Attacks PARRAMATTA PUNDIT

PARRAMATTA reports attack 0846/14 by one aircraft, engeged by fighters and 4 bombs dropped 3 miles wide.
Attack 1315/15 by 3 aircraft. Good attack 5 bombs narrowly missing PUNDIT and 5 not far from RANEE. Blenheim fighters intercepted and disabled one which dived into sea and attacked second aircraft indecisively.
One minor casualty from splinters in PUNDIT (S.N.O. Red Sea, 1256Z/16)

China

MARNE

Intercepted cable states 14/10. French despatch vessel MARNE aground coast Hainan near Hoihow. (Capt O.S., Singapore, 0751Z/16)

Shipping Japan

My 2016/4. In view of possibility of these ships being chartered by Japan financial conditions of charter may be waived.
British India S.N.Co. has been informed accordingly but have been told that ships if chartered must not be used on Japanes run.
(D.T.D. 1438/16 to C. in C., China)

America & West Indies

KOSMOS

Due Curacao 10/10 from Walrus Bay, not arrived. (S.O.I., Jamaica, 1131/16)

Navigation Lights

Admiralty message "D.F". Ref. A.M.S.I. 39.
When on coastal route of North or South America in Areas 8 and 10, British merchant vessels are to proceed undarkened and to burn navigation lights at full brilliance.
(D.T.D. 1201/16, to G.B.M.S. all area)

French Trade West Indies

Your 1231/9. Request report on extent of this trade in both directions, names and nationalities of ships engaged in trade and cargoes carried. H.M.G. are in communication with U.S. Government on subject.
Concur in proposed action. Any French ships brought in for examination are to be reported to Admiralty with summary of cargo and such ships and cargo to be held pending receipt of instructions from H.M.G. as to disposal.
Head of M. 1139/16 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

/THALIA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

THALIA

Your 1942/15. In July New York reported Master and full crew of THALIA were British. He was authorised to issue full set of Merchant C.B's on personal charge of Master. Ship is operated by Imperial Oil Company Toronto. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1143/16)

"Town" Destroyers R.C.N.

In compliance with Admty. 2346/10. R.C.N. destroyer ex U.S.A. will be known as R.C.N. "Town" class destroyers. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0948/16)

NORA

Your 1114/4. N.C.S.O. Sydney's 1544/14. Local escort S.C. 6. reports straggler last seen 1845/29 45.13 N., 52.33 W. This might perhaps have been Estonian ship NORA. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1559/16)

Australia

ZEALANDIA

Local transport, with 792 troops, left Brisbane 0936Z/15 for Darwin (A.C.N.B., 0129Z/16)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

WINDHUK — At Santos, reported preparing to leave shortly. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1943/16)

CERIGO — Re 1847/14 from S.O.(I) Callao. Panama also reports CERIGO expected to sail this week with German passengers for Japan. Funnel to be painted black. Japanese flag hoisted when outside territorial waters (B.2) (S.O.I. Kingston 0950/16)

HELGOLAND — My 2050/12. (Seamen ex-German HANNOVER leaving San Domingo for Port au Prince) Men have joined HELGOLAND (S.O.I. Kingston, 1451/15)

SPEZIA — Reported to be loading at Barcelona on 18/10 for Italy (D.S. 408)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

DUCHESSA D'AOSTA — At Fernando Po, reported to owners at Trieste on 8/10 that her cargo was "good". Has 600 tons fuel, boiler water exhausted, fresh water and provisions for one month. (D.S.407)

ADA MELLO — At Montevideo went alongside 15/10 to discharge cargo of maize bought locally (D.S. 408)

FRANCA FASSIO — (Reported sunk by submarine) Reported from Madrid that 5 survivors landed. (D.S. 408)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

Exchange of. — See Operations Against Vichy French.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked

BENLAWERS (torpedoed 6/10)

FOREST landed master and 10 other survivors of BENLAWERS at Bermuda 16/10. Master of BENLAWERS reports vessel torpedoed 1107Z/6 in position 053° 20' N., 026° 10' W. Vessel was proceeding independently speed 12½ knots zigzagging number 17, visibility very good, wind west force 5. No sign of U-Boat observed at any time. Distress message could not be sent. Survivors returning to U.K. in ORDUNA. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1223/16)

TREVISA

SSSS 57.23 N., 20.36 W., TREVISA torpedoed and sinking. Correction 57.24 N., 20.30 W., (Valentia Radio, 0153/16, 0205/16) SABRE, SARDONYX, OTTAWA and KEPPEL to investigate. (C. in C., W.A. 0333/16) S/M CLYDE informed. (V.A.S., 0334/16) Was in convoy S.C. 7. TREVISA bottom up. Propose to sink. 14 survivors in KEPPEL. SABRE returning to harbour. (OTTAWA, 0821/16) Your 0821 approved. (C. in C., W.A., 1143/16)

Foremost half of TRAVISA apparently full of lumber, holed, and on fire and believed sinking in position 057° 27' N., 020° 45' W but still danger to navigation at 1660 today. KEPPEL detached at 0840. Am proceeding to Clyde 16 knots. (OTTAWA, 1710/16)

CHESHIRE (torpedoed 14/10)

Suggest salvage tug be sent to pump out No 1 hold. My position course and speed at 0900, 55.26 N., 08. 10 W., 080° 6 knots. (CHESHIRE, 0921/16) Draught of water 49 ft forward, 16 ft aft. (CHESHIRE, 0831/16)

Submarines Reported

0945

By aircraft, 49.24 N., 9.15 W., (Aircraft 217 Sqdn. 0945/16) Sighted on surface and seen to submerge. When first sighted was on course 160° speed 6 knots. (Aircraft 217 Sqdn. 0950/16) (C. in C., W.A., 1013/16, F.O. (S.) 1049/16)

1025

By coast watcher Isle of Gruna, sighted 1 mile from shore. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1224/16) Trawler STORA sailed to search. (WESTERN ISLES, 1316/16)

1412

By Empire flying boat, 44.25 N., 10.00 W., (C. in C. W.A., 1429/16, V.A.S. 1448/16) No indication of course but if inward bound would probably be making for Gironde. (D.D.I.C. 1525/16)

/1354.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

1354	By Coastguard, Rattray Head, Conning Tower awash steering S. 045° Rattray Head 3 miles (B.2) (C. in C., Rosyth, 1509/16) 57.39 N., 1.45 W.
1510	Enemy submarine reported in 60° N., 15° to 16° W at 1510 (C. in C., W.A., 1609/16)
2020	Am over enemy submarine in 59.56 N., 15.00 W. (Aircraft D/210, 2020/16, C. in C., W.A., 2131/16) (See Submarines Attacked) (D.D.I.C. 2208/16, 2219/16)
0416	45.00 N., 16.00 W., position indefinite. (D.S. 407)
2348	D.F. indications at 2348/16 suggest possibili you are being shadowed by U-Boat. (D.D.I.C. 0055/17 to ANTHONY, VERITY etc.)
0115	A.F. message 58.38 N., 12.17 W., at 0015 G.M. (D.D.I.C. 0440/16)
0257	A.F.message 57.24 N., 20.30 W., at 0157 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C.0440/16)
0226	57.30 N., 22° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 407)
1106	55° N., 16° W., position approximate (D.S. 407)
0129	55.50 N., 14° W., position indefinite (D.S. 407)
2238	54.30 N., 14°-16° W. indefinite position (D.S. 408)
1717	57.30 N., 18°-20° W. indefinite position (D.S. 408)
1230 and 1440	58.30 N.,- 59.30 N., 12°-14° W., indefinite position (D.S. 408)
2035	53.58 N., 4.56 W., reported by Army lookout (C.4) (D.S. 408)
1920	54°-55° N., 6°-8° E., indefinite position. (D.S. 408)

/Estimated....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.10.1940
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: No news.

German : 1 in about 45° N., 16° W at 0416/16
1 in 49° 24' N., 9° 15' W., at 0945/16 course 160° may reach Lorient p.m. 17th October.
1 small U/B in about 49° N., 11° W., bound northwards.
1 in about 55° N., 16° W., at 1106/16
1 in about 55° 50' N., 14° W at 0129/16.
1 was in 57° 24' N., 20° 30' W., at 0157/16.
1 in about 57° 30' N., 22° W at 0226/16
1 was in 58° 38' N., 12° 17' W at 0115/16
1 may be in about 60° N., 16° W following O.A. 228.
(D.D.I.C. 1300/16)

Submarines Attacked

0115 — Submarine sighted on surface position 058° 38' N., 012° 17' W. attacked with three patterns and lost contact. An continuing hunt with FOLKSTONE. Wesather report. (LEITH 0115/16)
My 0115. Contact not regained. All electric sweeps point to fact that Submarine dived under convoy after attack. Since then searching astern of Convoy with FOLKESTONE and HEARTSEASE. No escort was available to stand by position of attack. (LEITH 0531/16)

0945 — By aircraft with bombs. 49.24 N., 9.15 W., (D.S. 408) (See S/Ms Reported)

1115 — Periscope sighted and contact attacked. 55.32 N., 06.20 W., at 1115/16. (C. in C., W.A., 1553/16)

2020 — By aircraft 59.56 N., 15.35 W., Sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 220. Depth charged, no result seen. Fog. (A/C D/210, 2020/16, 15 group 2030/16)

Italian Submarines Sunk — In Red Sea. (See East Indies)

23

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

KING GEORGE V

KING GEORGE V sailed from the Tyne at 0530/17 for Rosyth, escorted by NAIAD, BONAVENTURE and 6 destroyers.

FAME
ASHANTI
Ashore

At 0519/17 two of the destroyers, FAME and ASHANTI were reported ashore 4½ miles south of the Tyne, and at 0605 FAME reported that her boiler room was on fire.
Attempt to tow ASHANTI off the ground at high water today failed. The fire in FAME is under control.

KING GEORGE V arrived at Rosyth p.m. today.

6 ships torpedoed in Convoy

4 ships were torpedoed last night in Convoy O.B. 228 and two in Convoy S.C. 7.

CHESHIRE

CHESHIRE (torpedoed 14/10) was beached at -1230 today near Kilroot Point (Belfast)

E-Boat Attack on F.S. 11.

Convoy F.S. 11. was attacked by E-Boats at 2315 today, 20 miles N.E. of Yarmouth.
3 ships were disabled, either by torpedoes or mines.
SS BRYAN reports sinking an E-Boat.

E-Boat

The presence of an E. Boat was suspected early this morning between Lands End and Ushant. BROKE and BURZA were ordered to try to intercept.

Engagement with enemy Destroyers

4 enemy destroyers left Brest steering west about 0700 today. They were sighted by Coastal Command aircraft at 0719 at close range in low visibility. Convoys SL 60, HG 45 and OG 44 were ordered to steer westward. NEWCASTLE, EMERALD, JACKAL, JUPITER, KASHMIR, KELVIN and KIPLING (this force is known as Force F) proceeded to attack.
The enemy destroyers were reported at 1345 approximately 100 miles S.W. of Land's End steering north west at high speed, and at 1607 NEWCASTLE opened fire at extreme range; the enemy were making for Brest. Captain D 5 was also in touch.

/Aircraft.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Engagement with Enemy Destroyers, Contd

Aircraft attack on Force F was expected and it was not possible to give adequate protection to our forces. At 1801 enemy aircraft unsuccessfully bombed our forces. Blenheim bombers, accompanied by fighters attacked, without stopping the the enemy destroyers, which escaped to Brest.

British Air Activity

All operations by Coastal Command early last night were cancelled on account of weather.
Early this morning at least 3 out of 4 large calibre bombs were exploded in an attack on Brest. Lorient also was successfully bombed.

Bomber Command attacked Kiel Docks; no hits were made on GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST but bursts were observed close to the target and it is believed much damage was done to the docks. BISMARCK and Hamburg docks were attacked; results we re not observed. Docks at Cuxhaven, Bremen and Bordeaux were also attacked.

Enemy Air Activity

Some damage was done at Chatham dockyard last night.

Damage was also caused last night in the London Dock area.

A Belgian trawler was bombed and machine gunned this evening 23 miles south of Kinsale and lost her trawling gear.

Mining

Mines were laid last night in the Gironde estuary.

An enemy aircraft was seen, suspected laying mines, east of Wick during last night. Mine laying was also carried out off the east coast and in the Thames Estuary,

/KINGSTON.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

KINGSTON CAIRNGORM (A/S trawler) was mined and sunk in the Channel today whilst intow.

Two ships were mined today neat Aldeburgh L.V. and one was damaged by near mine explosions in the Thames Estuary.

Operations Against Vichy French

Four French submarines and a tanker, escorted by M/S sloop LA BATAILLEUSE and French aircraft passed Gibraltar in a westerly direction about noon today. A British aircraft shadowed them to ensure that they went to Casablanca.

A report was received today that STRASBOURG and 20 units were leaving Toulon. RENOWN was brought to short notice and a patrol was ordered to be established to eastward of the Straits of Gibraltar.

PRIMAUGUET, an oiler and 2 submarines are reported to have sailed south from Dakar p.m. today. DORSETSHIRE and CORNWALL were ordered to patrol off Cape St. Anne to intercept them and instruct them to return to Dakar or Casablanca.

Mediterranean

Blenheims today attacked shipping at Benghazi, scoring direct hits on two ships.

MOST SECRET.

17.10.40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence Of U.K.

DELUGE Signals. At 0200/17 (D.C.0201/17) At 1400/17 (D.C.1420/17).

Nore Command. Notice for Steam. Air R/C unsatisfactory. Keep steam at half hours notice till 0900/17. (C.in C. Nore 0519/17).

Policy.

My 1421/14/8 owing to major damage to ZULU, FAME, ASHANTI and VERSATILE and minor damage to COSSACK and SIKH I am afraid I shall have to withdraw two of 12th D.F. from North Western Approaches now. Further in view of withdrawal of DUNCAN, FEARLESS and FOXHOUND on about 25th October two more of 12th D.F. will have to be withdrawn then.
(C.in C. H.F. 1354/17 to C.in C. W.A.)

Your 1354/17. Will DOUGLAS and KEPPEL meet your immediate requirements.
(C.in C. W.A. 1749/17 to C.in C.H.F.)

ISIS To replace FAME in Force H. It will be necessary to provide another Destroyer for Force H. to replace FAME

Either ISIS or ELECTRA are suggested.

Request your remarks.
(V.C.N.S. 1522/17 to C.in C. H.F.)

Your 1522/17. ISIS. (C.in C. H.F. 2300/17 to Adty).

HOOD. Your 1555/15. In her present state H.M.S. HOOD lacks the first essential of a battle cruiser, namely highspeed I strongly urge that we take advantage of the opportunity afforded by the information given in your 1541/16 ✱ to restore to her this attribute now.
(C.in C. H.F. 2329/17 to Adty).

Movements.

REVENGE. Have steam at half an hours notice.
(C.in C. W.A. 0957/17 to REVENGE).

AUSTRALIA. Adty. 2333/16. Route to Clyde.
(C.in C. W.A. 1221/17).

Western Approaches. Situation at 2000/17. (C.in C. W.A. 1345/17 to Clyde).

MOST SECRET.

17.10.40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd).

Dover.	Patrols for night 17/18. (V.A. Dover 1428/17).
Western Channel.	Night report. (C.in C. W.A. 1615/17 and 1905/17).
Corvettes.	Allocation of, amendment to 1815/15. (Capt. D. Liverpool 1633/17).
	Operations.
2 E/Boats off Teignmouth.	2 E/Boats reported in 120° Teignmouth 7 miles at 0205. Aircraft will co-operate with you. (C.in C. W.A. 0243/17 to BROKE, BURZA) Position 49° 15'N., 9° 43'W. Course 70°. Endeavour to intercept. (C.in C. W.A. 0427/17 to BROKE). Cancel my 0427. Position of E/Boat 49° 27'N., 4° 43'W. at 0430. Endeavour to intercept. (C.in C. W.A. 0457/17 to BROKE).
KING GEORGE V. (Operation S.A) See also casualties and defects re FAME and ASHANTI.	Left Tyne at 0530/17 for Rosyth. Speed 16 knots. Doubtful if F.O.C.15th C.S. and Destroyer Screen are in company. Proceed best speed to meet KING GEORGE V and provide A/S protection. (C.in C. H.F. 0751/17 to FEARLESS) FAME, ASHANTI ashore. Request tugs immediately off Mouth at Whitburn. (FAME 0519 and 0524/17 to N.O.I.C. Tyne). Send tugs and fire fighting appliances. Boiler room on fire. (FAME 0605/17 to N.O.I.C. Tyne). Request Zero hour and confirmation of time of departure. Visibility 8 cables. Have not made contact with Destroyers. Situation unknown. Cannot get into touch with them. (F.O. 15th C.S. 0647/17 to C.in C. Rosyth Have you sighted ship concerned. (C.S.15 0723/17 to SIKH) Your 0647. Ships passed Tyne Pierhead at 0535. (C.in C. Rosyth 0728/17 to F.O. 15 C.S) Join me with all despatch at 20.D.Buoy, course 345°. (C.S.15 0732/17 to SIKH) Proceed with all despatch towards Newcastle to meet and escort KING GEORGE V to May Island. (C.in C. H.F. 0753/17 to BEAGLE).

MOST SECRET.

17.10.40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.(Contd.)

KING GEORGE V.
(Operation SA)
See also
Casualties and
Defects re FAME
and ASHANTI.

Proceed with all despatch to meet KING GEORGE V and escort her to May Island. Ship left Tyne at 0530 speed 16 knots. Do not impede sweepers operating in Swept Channels. (C.in C. H.F. 0818/17 to WESTMINSTER, WALLACE)

Preliminary enquiries show that Destroyer proceeding to RV with KING GEORGE V off Tyne Pierhead took departure from 20 Q Buoy in mistake for 20 C Buoy which latter was not sighted in the prevailing heavy rain. (C.in C. H.F. 2009/17 to Adty).

Consider position of ASHANTI and FAME precarious. If wind and weather are easterly from whatever quarter consider salvage will be very difficult. Also danger of heavy ground swell in this area. Request best salvage expert may be sent to collaborate with Commander Smith, Salvage Officer, N.E. Coast, as soon as possible. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2039/17 to Adty).

4 Destroyers
off Ushant.

Coastal Command A/C reports 4 Destroyers in 48° 24'N. 5° 33'W., steering West at 0719. (V.A.S.0842/17 to Submarines Area B). (C.in C. W.A. 1003/17 to Ships). Cancel my 0842. (V.A.S. 1011/17).

NEWCASTLE, EMERALD, JACKAL, JUPITER, KASHMIR, KELVIN, KIPLING proceeding. (C.in C. W.A. 1027/17 to C.in C. H.F.) (V.A.S.1049/17.

Ships are to form Force F. (C.in C. W.A. 1311/17 to NEWCASTLE)

Convoys keep as far westwards as endurance permits. Shall assume they will reach R/V 12 hours late. (C.in C. W.A. 1341 and 1343/17).

You were reported by enemy aircraft at 1200. (C.in C. W.A. 1353/17 to Force F.)

CAIRO and available destroyers raise steam with all despatch for full speed. (C.in C. W.A. 1517/17 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

MOST SECRET.

17.10.40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

4 Destroyers off Ushant. Contd).

4 Destroyers reported in 48° 20'N., 6° 10'W. steering N.N.W. at high speed at 1345. (C.in C. W.A. 1521/17 to Force F.)

Cancel my 1517. (C.in C. W.A. 1623/17 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Enemy Air attack imminent on Force F. (Plymouth W/T. 1535/17).

4 Destroyers bearing south 10 miles course south. My position 49° 29'N. 6° 40'W. (D.5 1612 and 1624/17)

Engaging Enemy Destroyers at extreme range. My position 49° 25'N. 6° 44'W. (NEWCASTLE 1612/17).

4 Destroyers bearing 190 °distance 14 mls My position 49° 19'N. 6° 45'W. course 185°, speed 28 knots. (NEWCASTLE 1632/17)

5 Blenheims Fighters leaving 1700 to attack Enemy Destroyers. (C.in C. W.A. 1651/17 to Force F.)

My 1612. Enemy retiring towards Brest at high speed. Am chasing. (NEWCASTLE 1710/17 to C.in C. W.A.)

My 1651. For Fighter read Bomber. 3 Blenheim Fighters are leaving now to escort you. (C.in C. W.A. 1713/17 to Force F.)

At 1730 my position 48° 46'N., 6° 35'W, course 150°, speed 32 knots. (NEWCASTLE 1730/17 to C.in C. W.A.)

Unable to give adequate air protection. Withdraw at your discretion. (A.C.W.A. 1756/17 to NEWCASTLE).

On withdrawal return to Plymouth. M.G.B's will be patrolling S.E. of Start. (C.in C. W.A. 1857/17 to Force F).

Enemy have asked for assistance of Bombers. (C.in C. W.A. 1819/17 to Force F.)

My 1743/17. Destroyers have retreated to Brest. (C.in C. W.A. 1943/17 to Ships).

MOST SECRET.

17.10.40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Patrols T. and O.

Owing to Mines North of 54A.Buoy, Patrol T will not be carried out today.
Patrol O by 3 of 16th D.F. Route.
(C.in C. Nore. 1030/17 to D.16).

Weather permitting 60 ft. M.T.B's to operate between Flushing and Ijmuiden tonight. S.O. Submarines Harwich to be consulted about movements of own Submarines. Subject to restrictions necessary in connection with own Submarines any vessel met East of 3° East may be attacked without challenge. Any large concentration of ships to be reported immediately.
(C.in C. Nore 1238/17 to BEEHIVE).

Iceland.
(ARGUS)

Adty's. 1649/15. Route for ARGUS escorted by BEAGLE, HURRICANE, ACHATES.
(C.in C. W.A. 1409/17 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Intend sailing ARGUS, escorted at 1600/18. Speed 17 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1736/17 to Adty).

Operations ACTIVE and PUNGENT.

C.in C. Portsmouth's 2217/9. Proposed disposal of ships. (C.in C. Nore 1544/17 to Adty).

Force D. (Tromso).

My position at 1600, 68° 51'N., 4° 36'E, course 239°, speed 15 knots.
(S.O. Force D. 1600/17 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S) (R.A.D. H.F. 1828/17 to DUNCAN).

Portsmouth, Outer Patrol Line.

Your 1212/21/9, para C.1 and 2. Consequent on Outer Patrol Lines being established further seaward, request line be amended as follows.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1647/17 to Adty).

GASFIRE.

Totally disabled 6 miles N.N.W. of Smiths Knoll. (GASFIRE 2220/17 to North Foreland Radio). One ship in convoy torpedoed. One enemy Motor Boat bearing 30° one mile. My position 52° 53'N., 2° 8'E. (VERDUN 2314 and 2316/17) Enemy has disappeared to N.E. (VERDUN 2320/17).
Tug Norman from Yarmouth proceeding to help of GASFIRE now. (C.in C. Nore 2349/17 to VERDUN).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.10.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

GASFIRE. (Contd.)

Request fighter protection for 3 disabled M/V's in tow of tugs from daylight 18th. till arrival by Yarmouth about noon. (C.in C. Nore 0030/18 to H.Q.F.C.).
Tug MURIA and KENIA sailed 0105 to assist GASFIRE. Tug NORMAN standing by GEORGE BALFOUR in Yarmouth Roads. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0108/18 to Adty).
4 Tugs being sent from Yarmouth.
(C.in C. Nore 0313/18 to Capt.D 16)

Please sail two tugs with despatch to meet disabled M/V's GASFIRE, P.L.M.14 and HAUXLEY and assist tow to Humber. Estimated position noon 18th 53° 10'N., 01° 11' E proceeding slow speed by searched channels. MALCOLM, WIVERN WORCESTER and Yarmouth tugs in Company. (C.in C. Nore 0430/18 to F.O.I.C. Humber).

GASFIRE in tow in 52° 57'N., 2° 2' E. speed 15 knots.

PINTAIL in company. (WIVERN 0610/18 to Adty).

PUFFIN standing by three disabled ships in 52° 51'N., 2° 8'E. GASFIRE P.L.M.14 and HAUXLEY, last two ships abandoned chance of salvage all ships good. PUFFIN has numerous survivors on board some require urgent medical attention. VERDUN sending Medical Officer and rejoining convoy. S.S. BRYAN reports sinking an E/Boat.
(VERDUN 0038/18 to C.in C. Nore).

O.23.

Submarines.

To leave patrol 1800/18. Route.
(Capt. S.9 1041/17 to O.23).

Positions.
TIGRIS.

For following 24 hours at 0700/18.
(V.A.S. 1641/17 and 1928/17)
Movements. (C.in C. W.A. 1837/17 to Force F).

British Air Activity.

Kiel, Hamburg, Cuxhaven, Bremen, Heligoland, Bordeaux, St. Malo.

A/C attacks on night 16/17.(H.Q.B.C. 1834/17).

MOST SECRET

17.10.1940
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

Rosyth Area — My 1840/16. R/C cancelled owing to low visibility. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0806/17)
All Air patrols, searches, and escorts postponed owing to weather except escorts for W.N. 23, S.L. 49 A., and H.X. 78. (C. in C., Rosyth 0834/17)
Air search for 18/10 (C. in C., Rosyth 2002/17)

Aircraft Landed in Northern Lapland — Newspaper report. Crew of 2 interned. (C. in C., H.F., 0941/17 to B.C.I) Please signal particulars and names (D.N.I. 1826/17 to N.A. Stockholm)

Bombing of Batteries between Calais and Ambleteuse — Request action on Admty's 1549/16 (Air Ministry 0950/17 to Bomber Command)

Operation D.H. (Tromso) — Request R/C of Norwegian Coast from 61° N., to 62° 50' N., may be flown p.m./18 (C. in C. H.F. 2035/17 to C. in C., Rosyth) This will be arranged if possible but doubtful if aircraft will be able to take off. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2244/17 to C. in C., H.F.)

S.A. Patrols — None was effective this evening owing to low visibility. (C. in C., Rosyth 2128/17 to C. in C., H.F.)

Attack on 4 Enemy Destroyers — Aircraft attacked at 1820/17 in 48° 35' N., 5° 50' W., Near misses claimed. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 2150/17 to H.Q.C.C.)

M/V Attacked — In 53° 33' N., 5° 45' E. Result not seen. Air Ministry 2222/17 to H.Q.C.C.)

Enemy Air Activity

German Meteorological Flights — Operate in Faroes Area about 0930 to 1030 daily. (C. in C., H.F. 0934/17 to F.O.C. 1 B.C.S.)

Deptford — One H.E. Bomb dropped on Royal Victoria Yard on night of 15/10. Damage estimated £300 (O.C.W. Deptford 1010/17)

Chatham — At 0010/17 a Bomb fell in Dock Road outside Dockyard Damage estimated £500 (Supt. C.E. Chatham 1334/17)

/ Pembroke Dock...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Pembroke Dock

One aircraft dropped H.E. and Incendiary Bombs near Pembroke Dock at 2040 and 2110/16. No damage to Admty property (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1501/17 to Admty.)

Mining

Enemy Mining

Enemy aircraft suspected laying mines in following areas:- 58. 20' N., to 58° 30' N., and 2° 20' W., to 2° 35' W (C. in C.ᵹ Rosyth 0122/17)

Convoy F.S.10
FRANKRIG
GEORGE BALFOUR
Mined

FRANKRIG and GEORGE BALFOUR in Convoy F.S.10 mined. Picked up entire crew FRANKRIG. VESPER standing by GEORGE BALFOUR. Position of FRANKRIG wreck 230° Aldeburgh L.V. 12,900 yds. Dan Buoy laid (HOLDERNESS 0715/17) VESPER taking GEORGE BALFOUR in tow, Intend trying to get her to Lowestoft.(HOLDERNESS 0740/17) Tugs MURIA and KENIA have sailed to assist you (N.O.I.C. Harwich 0935/17) Rescue tug NORMAN hasbeen sent. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0958/17) Request fighter protection for VESPER towing one merchant ship. Code word "ADAPT". Forthwith today until arrival at Lowestoft (C. in C., Nore, 1016/17) 19 Survivors from FRANKRIG landed Yarmouth. All crew safe and uninjured. Other details. (F.O.I.C., Yarmouth 1944/17)

Faroes

Explosion in Hesto Fiord at 0700/17. Wreckage of fishing smack found 0945/17 in 061° 54' N., 006° 42' W. Local vessels advised not to navigate Hesto or Skopen Fiords during dark hours or in fog. Surface failures and drifting mines are being dealt with as rapidly as possible with existing resources. Moored surface failures are submerged except at slack water. At least one of moored failures has been exploded by gunfire. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1203/17)

DUNDALK
Mined 16/10

DUNDALK was mined in 036° 4 miles from 54A buoy at 1831/16. SUTTON took DUNDALK in tow proceeding to Harwich but at 0242/17 DUNDALK sank in position 51° 56' 54" N., 1° 26' 42" E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1215/17)

/River Thames....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

River Thames

Cancel My 0500/16 all parachute mines known to have dropped in the river have exploded except one inshore of Church Hole Tier in Lower Pool navigation in river may be resumed ships are to keep well to northward when passing Church Hole Tier. (F.O.I.C. London, 1300/16)

Rosyth

Red mine exploded in A.M.Q.Z.S. 175 in 56° 6' 42" N., 2° 47' W (C. in C., Rosyth 1013/17)
Two red mines exploded by LL trawlers today. Positions. Technical details. (C. in C., Rosyth 2151/17)

Operation B.S.42

Two Humber destroyers to be detailed as escort (C. in C., Nore 1353/17) Intend to sail from Spurn Pt. 0730/21. Laying will begin 000/22 (S.O.M/L Immingham 1615/17) Fighter protection will be asked for during daylight 21/10 and 22/10 (C. in C., Nore, 1817/17) Your 353. ICARUS and IMPULSIVE detailed (S.O. 20th D.F. 1835/17)

M.T.B. 106
Sunk 16/10

Technical details (C. in C., Nore, 1741/17)

Thames Approaches

One red mine detonated by LL sweepers 6 cables 238° Mid Shoebury Buoy far inside. (C. in C., Nore., 1907/17)

Two mines exploded close to SS ETHYLENE in F.S. Convoy near No 17 Barrow Buoy today Wednesday. D.Y. coil of ETHYLENE was out of action. (C. in C., Nore, 2225/17)

FAME
ASHANTI
Ashore.
See Also
Movements
KING GEORGE V

FAME and ASHANTI went ashore at top of H.W.S. at L.W. ships are practically high and dry. Salvage Officer says:-
Ships will have to be lightened as much as possible by removal of stores, guns etc., Bottom rocky and owing to shoal water not possible to get tugs alongside. Ground tackle will have to be used for refloating. Efforts being made to control fire in FAME by shore pumps and Foam extinguishers. (F.O.i/c Tyne 1019/17)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Unknown Ship

Your 2337/16 was in 200° Eddystone 23 miles and SS BLACTOFT 3 miles South of her 2200, both steering E.N.E. and having poor signal lamps. (BROKE 006/17 to C. in C., W.A.

6 Destroyers

Distant 10 miles. My position 49° 16' N., 6° 38' W. Speed 8 knots. (A/C 217 Sqdn 1652/17 (C. in C., W.A. 2150/17 to Adty.)

My 1657/15 and 2059/15. Abnormality in German W/T traffic remains consistent with intended activity in Southern North Sea and Channel U-Boats in North Sea continue to be included. Traffic since p.m./16 clearly suggest the additional probability of naval movements ouf of the Skagerrak, possibly to the Northwards. (A.C.N.S.H. 1759/17 to C's in C.)

E-Boat

One M.T.B. bearing 120° o.5 miles distant. My position 52° 53' N., 2° 8' E. (VERDUN 2338/17)

Kiel

2 Warships at Schleusen on night 16/17. (H.Q.B.C. 1834/17)

Enemy Morale

Canal Area reports Frenchmen who left occupied France on 1st October told reliable source that R.A.F. action had been most successful and morale of German Invasion Troops had consequently lowered. Dewoitine factory near Paris is now building fighter aircraft for Germans. Baudoin Foreign Minister is becoming increasingly pro-British. Reliability B.2. (S.O.I. Alexandria 1043/17 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

KOSMOS — Due Curacoa 10/10 from Walrus Bay has not arrived. Freetown has no information since departure 12/9 (S.O.(I) Jamaica 1131/16)

MARLY — See East Indies

Admiral Plymouth NR 10 Group R.A.F. Rudloe. Received 1325 G.M.T. unknown station alleged to have used distress call only particulars available Monnbiz barge NR 1 1200 G.M.T. Ajem lat. 40.30 N., remainder jammed. Particulars do8btful. (Burnham on Sea Radio 1445/17)

ASHANTI
FAME — Unsuccessful attempt was made to tow ASHANTI off at top of high water. Operations abandoned for night. Fire in FAME is under control (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1823/17)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Concoys	Shipping
H.X. 79	To alter course (C. in C., W.A., 1020/17 to MONTCLARE) Meet (C. in C., W.A. to JASON etc. 1240/17) Meet (C. in C., W.A., to WHITEHALL etc., 1740/17) Netherland S/M O.14 in company (C. in C., W.A., 1100/17)
O.B. 229	To alter course (C. in C., W.A., 1030/17 to WHITEHALL)
S.C. 7	Route (C. in C., W.A., 1040/17 to LEITH) If not in contact, join S.C. 7 forthwith (C. in C., W.A., 1137/17)
O.A. 229	To alter course. (C. in C., W.A., 1050/17 to JASON)
O.A. 231	Route (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1027/17) CURACOA to transfer to (R.A.D. H.F. 2000/17)
O.A. 230	CURACOA in vicinity (CURACOA 0805/17)
W.N. 23	Position and speed (HUGH WALPOLE 1320/17) (R.A.D. H.F. 2000/17)
C.E. 14	Request air protection (C. in C., Nore, 1540/17)
H.X. 78 A	S.O., ROMAN, CURACOA to transfer to. (R.A.D. H.F., 2000/17)
S.L. 60 H.G. 45 O.G. 44	4 destroyers left Brest. Convoys to steer to westward (C. in C., W.A., 0859/17, to WELLINGTON, PRETORIA CASTLE, GLEANER) Destroyers have returned. Unnecessary to keep to westward. (C. in C., W.A., 1829/17, 1838/17)
S.L. 50	Sailing telegram as amended Admty. (D.T.D. 1222/17)
S.L.A.49	Time of arrival Kinnaird Head. CURACOA joined (ABERDEEN, 1030/17)
O.B. 230	Sailed 1255/17, escort CLARE, MALLOW, ANEMOME (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1332/17)
SVEADROTT CASTOR	My 1723/15. To be boarded and examined during passage through Skopen Fiord. (D.O.D. (H) to A.C.O.S., 1131/17) Route (D.D.I.C. 2148/17, D.O.D.(H) 2359/17) Cancel my 1739/16. Swedish Admty informs me SVEADROTT and CASTOR due Christiansand p.m./18 and sail again 19/10. Route. (N.A. Srockholm, 1632/17)
Methil	Cancel my 1459/1 (Instructions for ships entering Methil) (D.T.D., 2112/17)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

PRIMAUGUET

Reported French cruiser PRIMAUGUET with oiler and two submarines has sailed south from Dakar. Date unknown.
DORSETSHIRE and CORNWALL to patrol on a line 220° from Cape Saint Anne. DORSETSHIRE between Cape Saint Anne 230 miles and 380 miles CORNWALL between Cape Saint Anne 230 miles and 50 miles using aircraft as possible. If met PRIMAUGUET and accompanying vessels are to be instructed to return to Casablanca or Dakar. Force is to be used if necessary but S.O. is to be informed that it is hoped this will be avoided. If ships agree to proceed as directed they are to be shadowed until further instructions received. Endeavour is to be made to obtain definite guarantee from S.O. that he will proceed as directed. If submarines are in company S.O. is to be informed any attempt by submarine to dive will be treated as hostile act and immediate retaliatory action will be taken against surface ships and submarines. (C. in C., S.A., 0119/17 amended 1031/17)

Your 2322/16. Any idea as to date PRIMAUGUET sailed. (C. in C., S.A., to F.O.I.C.S., 0213/17) No date given. Origin of rumour. (DELHI 0835/17)
Informing KENYA and asking if sighted to report position, course and speed. (C. in C., S.A., 0225/17)

Your 1615/16. DELHI informs me COMMANDANT DOMINE ordered to abandon patrol and return to Duala by Governor of Cameroons. Request early information whether it is intended that de Gaulle's promise to co-operate with free French ships watch upon Libreville will be implemented. Advance notice of Free French ships and any available intelligence regarding Gabon Ports is also required. Immediate information including source and reliability of rumour about PRIMAUGUET southward movement from Dakar communicated by (?BOOCHET) to DELHI is required and also any information regarding date of suspected movement. (F.O.I.C.S. 0842/17 to Spears Mission.

French Submarines

French submarines MONGE, VENGEUR, L'ESPOIR PEGASE with tanker IOT escorted by French Sloop M/S LA BATAILLEUSE and French aircraft sighted by VIDETTE 0843/17 in position 096° Almina Point 23 proceeding westwards. (F.O.C.N.A. 1020/17)
My 1020/17. Vessels passed westbound at 1115/17. (F.O.C.N.A. 1144/17)

/Darkened.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Darkened Ships Treat as Hostile

In the event of a darkened warship approaching St~~Pierre~~ Naz at night may I assume that Vichy Government understand that such ships are liable to be treated as hostile and attacked without warning. (F.O.C.N.A. 1510/17, to Admty)
Your 1510/17. Yes (V.C.N.S. 2240/17)

Aircraft Patrols

Daily Summary Operations. Surface reconnaissances 2 routine A/S patrols 1 air craft shadowing French Force of 4 submarines 1 tanker which passed Straits westbound at 1200 today. Object of latter to ensure destination of force is Casablanca Area covered by patrols Spartel to 4 degrees west. Flying curtailed owing adverse weather (200 Group 1710/17)

STRABOURG

Report received (B.2) At 1300/17 that STRASBOUR and 2C units are leaving Toulon (D.D.I.C. 1856/17)

AUSTRALIA

My 1856/15 (?17) Cancel my 2333/16 if movement has begun. AUSTRALIA with transports and destroyers are to return to Gibraltar (D.O.D.(F) 1921/17 to F.O.C.N.A., 2010/17)

RENOWN

My 1856/17. RENOWN is to come to short notice for steam. Establish a patrol to eastward of Straits (D.O.D.(F) 1936/17, to F.O.C.N.A. and F.O.H)

French Troops

Report from Governor Bathurst entirely reliable states one Battalion of T.S.F. were transhipped from Casablanca to Dakar and there transferred October 15th to French liner INDO-CHINOIS, reported to be leaving Dakar for Conakry and Pointe Noire. Aircraft patrol reports large merchant ship entering Conakry 0800/17. (S.O.I. Freetown, 10002/17)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Movements

CITY OF DIEPPE sails 17/10 for Freetown. Route. GALLANT providing escort until dark 18/10. REINA DEL PACIFICO, ESCAPADE, FORTUNE expected Gibraltar a.m./18. AUSTRALIA, ECHO, GRIFFIN escorting KAIPAKI KARANJA sail 1800/17, Route. FAULKNOR, FURY FORESTER, FORESIGHT, position, thence Gibraltar. KINGSTON JACINTH due Gibraltar 1600/18 from patrol off Lisbon. (F.O.C.N.A. 1254/17)

ETTRICK KARANJA and Escort

Admty. 2333/16. Intend to sail ETTRICK and KARANJA escorted by AUSTRALIA, ECHO, GRIFFIN at 2000/17. GRIFFIN will be relieved by ESCAPADE. Estimated speed of advance 12½ knots. Route. (F.O.C.N.A.,1350/17 to C. in C., W.A.)

KABALO survivors

Following intercepted from Horta Radio (begins. Lifeboat of SS KABALO with survivors picked up by SS PANAM in position 032° 03' N. 030° 00' W. (Ends)
KABALO sailed Clyde 3/10 for Freetown and would probably not have reached above position before 14/10.
Loss might be due to a submarine, but thought more likely that there is a raider in this area. (D.D.I.C. 1803/17)

ORAO

Your 1553/14. Have you any information about ORAO. (D.T.D. 1829/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

KINGSTON SAPPHIRE

Your 1830/16. Assuming Spanish trawler effecting rescue was merchant vessel and not armed trawler, survivors should be released under Article 13 of 10th Convention, see Oppenheim, Vol 2 p. 595 and F.O. Tel No 82, Saving (Hd of M. 2107/17 to N.A. Madrid)

German Ships Vigo

My 1550/14. No change in German ships so far but 2 lorry loads of cases from Barcelona received for loading today. (Consul, Vigo, 1905/17)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

CORNWALL
DORSETSHIRE

My 0119/17 (See Operations Against Vichy French) CORNWALL sails for U.K. p.m./20. DORSETSHIRE with convoy W.S. Three a.m./19. Ships abe to leave patrol so as to arrive Freetown, CORNWALL 1500/19. DORSETSHIRE 0600/18. (C. in C., S.A., 1159N/17)

H.S. 3.

Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1356/17)

Cruisers

Your 1731/14 is concurred in. In view of your 1131/15 it seems that the better area in which to operate this cruiser is off Freetown. All 8" cruisers are fully employed. Consideration being given to 1 Or 2 A.M.Cs from Western Patrol being sent south in which case they could be employed to the westward of Cape Verde Islands. This movement cannot take place at present. Requested you will make what arrangements you think best to implement the necessity outlined in para 1 of my 1849/12. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2346/17 to C. in C., S.A.)

9 British Interned at Rufisque

Suggesting question of exchange with members of crew of POITIERS (scuttled off Dakar 16/9) be taken up. (C. in C., S.A., 2319/17)

My 2319/17. For Norwegian KORSHOLM read Swedish KORSHOLM (C. in C., S.A., 1057/18)

Mediterranean

790. I am fully in agreement except as stated below with V.A.Malta's appreciation of Malta situation as given in his Malta number 468/0702/6/20 of 12/9.
2. Para 14. It should be possible to operate light forces from Malta before April 1941.
3. I consider that a 4 month as opposed to a 6 month reserve of supplies at Malta is acceptable. Experience has shown that supplie can be passed in and this lower reserve will relieve already heavy convoy escort commitments of Mediterranean Fleet.
4. The total force required is:- 4 Minesweepers 2 LL sweepers 5 A/S vessels. 2 vessels to combine both LL sweeping and A/S duties would serve if these are available. (C. in C., Med. 1131/17)

/Operation....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operation B.S. REGULUS

Operation B.S. cancel my 1407/11. Leave present patrol forthwith and establish patrol in area D 030° 34' 017° 44'-000°-90 - 40. Object of patrol interception of traffic between Tripoli (AF)Benghazi direct and Tripoli (AF) Benghazi via Rirte. Attention called to my 1452/17, possibility of mines south of Benghazi. (Capt. S.I. 1911/17, to REGULUS)

IMPERIAL Mined

Board of enquiry on damage to IMPERIAL found explosion was due to a moored contact mine which struck some part of the ship right aft under tiller flat. All proper steps were taken to control damage, and death of one rating and injury to another were directly due to the explosion. Position of ship at the time was 035° 34" N., 014° 34' E No blame attributable to anyone. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1409/17)

Enemy Tactics

Grateful for any information on
(a) Tactics adopted by Italian Torpedo aircraft.
(b) Counter measures which are recommended including formation of units attacked.
(c) What tactics were employed by Destroyers that A JAX attacked and what illuminants on both sides. (S.O. Force H., 0930/17. to C. in C.m Med.)

Corvettes

Your 1113/4 and 1421/14. Regretted these vessels will not be available. Corvettes now in commission are fitted with A/S only and fully employed in W. Approaches. First four to be completed with A/S and M/S will be detailed for Mediterranean. (D.O.D. (F) to be C. in C., Med. 1217/17)

Coming Operation

Your 1421/14. Para (ii) allowing 12 hours darkness and 14½ knots made good convoy leaving longitude of Galita Island at nightfall would be about 145 miles from Malta at dawn passing north of Piraeus Bank.
Para (iv) to enable operation to take place in first week of November consider sailing of MT ships from U.K. should be expedited. (S.O. Force E. 0914/17 to C. in C., Med.)

/French Convoys...

MOST SECRET

17.10.1940
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

French Convoys

Latest information regarding movements of French Convoys, ships H.M. Government granted safe passage but surface vesseal may board for identification. Guarantees have been given that no cargo will be carried. Convoy A. PORTHUS DJENNE FLORIDA leaves Beirut 17/10 arrives Marseilles 23/10. Convoy B ANDRELEBON SAGITTAIRE JEAN L.D. leaves Beirut 20/10 arrives Marseilles 27/10 T.O.O. 1519/17. (C. in C., Med. 1521/17)

Spain

Bi-weekly report (N.A. Madrid 1730/17)

Sinking of Enemy Destroyers 12/10.

My 1045/14. AJAX action: At 0153/12 destroyers sighted on starboard bow down moon on opposite course and AJAX opened fire. Almost immediately afterwards second destroyer sighted on port bow, also on opposite course engaged by port four inch. 2nd Enemy scored two hits on bridge structure and one amidships above water-line causing fire in central store and adjacent compartment. First enemy (ARTIGLIERE) then appeared to be stopped and burning fiercely, subsequently sunk by YORK. AJAX turned to engage second Destroyer which shortly afterwards blew up.

2. Meanwhile third Destroyer was sighted. This was engaged after second enemy blew up and forthwith blown up. These were AIRONE and one other of same class. Range on opening fire approximately 4000,2000, 3000 yards respectively.

3. During the third engagement two larger destroyers of Cruisers sighted at long range on opposite course to AJAX and making to north west. Rear ship altered to similar course to AJAX and was engaged but retired out of range under smoke. Course was altered in pursuit for a short time but target went oit of sight and as it was apparent AJAX was not overhauling either ship action was broken off.

4. Re recognition Signals by enemy

5. Considerable difficulty experienced in AJAX in appreciating situation owing to flash of own guns whereas enemy used flashless propellant and efficient tracers. Total of 7 hits by enemy all bursting on impact.

6. Torpedo tracks also reported. AJAX fired four torpedoes possibly one hit.

/.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Sinking of Enemy Destroyers 12/10-Contd.

7. AJAX damage (details)

8. Casualties as in my 1027/15.

9. AJAX was handled with resolution and skill This was the first night shooting of this newly commissioned ship.
(C. in C., Med., 1831/17)

Air Report

Operational Summary No 129. period ending 1200 hours 17/10. Egypt. Night 15/16 October night attacks continued on Italian bases in Libya, 1800 hours 2 Bombers 216 Squadron attacked Tobruk independently. Bombs fell across the town and 100 yards north of the submarine jetty, incendiaries starting a fire near the naval barracks, 3 heavy bombs fell across 3 ships in harbour. 1820 hours 4 Blenheims 55 Squadron operating independently made high level attacks on Bardia Capuzzo and Sollum. Bombs fell on the shore at Bardia and across the Fort at Capuzzo. Results at Sollum not observed. 2030 hours 3 Wellingtons 70 Squadron attacked independently military buildings at Tobruk. Results not observed. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1242/17)

A. 842. Part III, 17/10.
1 Sunderland, 230 Sqdn. despatched to assist trawlers attack, Submarine position 31° 20' N., 29° 25' E., Submarine not located, bombs during on air (?) Bubble. No result observed.
Night 16/17, 1901 and 2059 hours 2 enemy aircraft operating independently attacked Alexandria, 1 Gladiator 274 Sqdn engaged first raider effects not observed.
Second Gladiator did not sight second raider, no dmmage or casualties reported.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1244/17)

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Aden. Air Attacks

Small paraffin incendiaries dropped by Italian aircraft at Aden near crater on 16/10 and lit up when released. Similar bombs dropped at Perim on 12/10. (C. in C., E.I., 1124Z/17)

MARLY ?Sunk

Norwegian 1115 tons. Sent S.O.S. reporting sinking and taking to boats 2337/Z/15 18.30 N., 72. 21 E., HECTOR and INVESTIGATOR ordered to assist. Nontrace found. Must be consid ered lost. HECTOR returned Bombay 1330Z/17. INVESTIGATOR returned Bombay 1430Z/16 with considerable damage in cyclone. (C. in C., E.I., 1852/Z/17)

Djibuti

Situation, appreciation, and urging we afford no facilities to French for Military evacuation. (C. in C., M.E., to W.O. 0430/17)

China

Shipping

Recommend (a) Wheelock ships trading constantly to Japanese waters be gradually withdrawn to Indian trade. In default voluntary carriage ships to be requisitioned. (b) Restriction of Norwegian charters to waters outside Japanese control. (ii) reference (a), several ships of these lines are on time charter to or otherwise controlled by Japanese interests who are believed to be deliberately keeping them in and near Japanese waters. (C. in C., China 0223Z/17)

America & West Indies

CARADOC To Intercept French M.V.

My 1052/13. CHARLES L.D. expected to leave Martinique for Casablanca with cargo of sugar about 20/10. On your departure from Antigua proceed to patrol to eastwards of Martinique to intercept her. If possible avoid being sighted by aircraft or from shore. Any other French ships encountered other than those on inter Island trade are also to be intercepted and sent to Trinidad under arned guard. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1032/17)

Suspicious Vessel CYMBELINE

Your 1635/22/9. Master CYMBELINE has been interviewed and stated at about 0900 on 30/8 he sighted a suspicious vessel to southward. CYMBELINE altered course North and on being followed sent out RR. Suspicious vessel closed to about 3 miles dead astern, made by flashes signalled spontaneously and then altered to about N.E.

/CYMBELINE.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Suspicious Vessel, CYMBELINE-Contd

CYMBELINE altered to original S.W. course and lost sight. Master CYMBELINE stated he cancelled distress call about 4 hours after making it.
This was not the raider which subsequently sank CYMBELINE on 2/9, (Rough description) (C. in C., A.W.I., 1252/17, to Admty.)

Suspicious W/T

W/T operator of MAASDAM bound for Liverpool in H.X. 81, reported that Roumanian ship believed to be ING. N. VLASSOPOL while outward bound in convoy which left Methil middle of September was heard on numerous occasions to test spark transmitter. Operator stated that no W/T conference was held prior to sailing. ING N. VLASSOPOL understood to be due shortly at Sydney Capre Breton, suggest matter be investigated. (F.O. 3. B.S. 1433/17)

RAKUYO MARU

Indicated from W/T interceptions that RAKUYO MARU will call Manzanillo to pick up 200 flasks of Mercury etc., Washington, San Francisco and Los Angeles informed. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1808/17)

French Ships

Your 1139/16. Following French ships known to be engaged in trade between U.S. and French West Indies: BELAIN D'ESNAMBUC, FORT RICHEPANSE and FORTE DE FRANCE carrying Bananas North and General cargo south. Greek ship CONSTANTINOS H sailed Norfolk 8/10 for Martinique with 3600 tons coal. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1832/17)

French Merchant Ships

Any French Merchant ships met at sea unless trading between islands of French West Indies are to be sent into British ports under armed guard for examination. Any de Gaulle supporters among crews passengers or prisoners are to be removed. Name of ship and summary of cargo are to be signalled to Admiralty and ship is to be detained pending further instructions. Governor of Windward Islands and Leeward Islands informed, (C.in C., A.W.I., 1831/17)

MOST SECRET.

17.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

(754) Havana report 754 likely to leave Everglades prepared to scuttle if caught. (C.3). (S.O.I., Kingston, 1510/17).

LUISE BORNHOFEN. Reported to be laid up for the winter at Fayal. (D.S. 409).

GERMANIA — Tanker, has been refused an application for 60 tons diesel oil at Ponta Delgada (D.S. 409).

KLAUS SCHOKE — May attempt to put to sea, possibly under escort of U-boat. Has recently taken 150 tons coal from LUISE BORNHOFEN. (D.S. 409).

RUDOLF ALBRECHT — Strong indications that she is preparing to leave Teneriffe. (Consul, Teneriffe 1610/17).

MOST SECRET.

17.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

HURUNUI (torpedoed 14/10)	British 10,023 tons. FOWEY with 73 survivors from HURUNUI has been instructed to rejoin convoy. (SCARBOROUGH, 1050/17).
CHESHIRE (torpedoed 14/10)	Arrived and beached in Belfast. Salvage operations in progress. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1248/17.) Beached at 1230 150° 5 cables from Kilroot Point (CHESHIRE 1257/17).
?	16 men reported afloat in 57.06 N., 10.50 W. OTTAWA proceed to rescue. (C.in C. W.A. 1319/17) Your 1319. No trace. Are the men in boats? (OTTAWA, 1849/17).
BONHEUR (torpedoed 15/10)	British, 5327 tons. Torpedoed 0420/15, 57.14 N., 8.20 W. Vessel known to have sunk in 12 minutes. Crew landed Belfast today, no casualties or missing. Was in Convoy O.B. 228. Master reports a British tanker No. 81 in convoy was torpedoed at same time and crew rescued by one of escorting vessels. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1537/17).
HIGHLAND BRIGADE (escaped 8/10)	Master of HIGHLAND BRIGADE reports (1) periscope sighted by 2 reliable men, distant 8 cables, at 1800/6 when in position 049° 39' N. 023° 38' W. S.S.S.Signal made (not heard by Freetown). (2) Track of torpedo seen missing close astern at 1600/8 when in position 041° 22'N. 031° 00' W. Track coming from Swirl 8 cables 2 points abaft beam was seen by look out, several officers and men. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1712/17).
SANGRANT (torpedoed 13/10).	Lifeboat sighted by aircraft 0733/17 from SANGRANT, torpedoed 1955/13. (? D.O.R.)
Convoy S.C.7.	Attacked at 0400 in 59.10 N., 18.34 W. (SCARBOROUGH, 0401/17, C.in C. W.A.0659/17).
SCORESBY	British 3843 tons. In S.C.7. Have on board full crew of SCORESBY sunk in 59.10. N., 18.34 W. (BLUEBELL, 0730/17 SCARBOROUGH, 0900/17).
LANGUEDOC.	French tanker, 9512 tons. (In S.C.7 attacked 0400). Holed fore end. Am standing by. Crew attempting to get her to port. (BLUEBELL, 0730/17). Your 0930. Escort tanker. (C.in C. W.A. 1127/17, SCARBOROUGH, 0900/17). Abandoned LANGUEDOC in 59.10 N., 17.52 W. Crew taken on board, total of survivors 79. Am rejoining convoy. (BLUEBELL, 1119/17).

/ Convoy O.B. 228.

MOST SECRET.

17.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN. (continued)

Ships Attacked.

Convoy O.B.228. 4 ships torpedoed 60.46 N., 16.30 W. (FOLKESTONE, 0255/17).
DOKKA and USKBRIDGE, 2 others names unknown. Continuing search. (GOLKESTONE, 1300/17).
Convoy attacked in position 59.15 N., 17.30 W. A/S's failed. (BLUEBELL, 1530/17).

DOKKA Norwegian, 1168 tons. In O.B.228. Sunk. 7 Norwegian survivors on board. (FOLKESTON, 1300/17). List of survivors (FOLKESTONE, 1735/17) 0230/17. 60.46 N., 16.30 W. Details of attack (FOLKESTONE, 1800/17).

USKBRIDGE. British, 2715 tons. In O.B. 228. Was abandoned and has sunk through internal explosion at 1235. (FOLKESTONE, 1300/17) 0230/17. 60.46 N., 16.30 W. Details of attack (FOLKESTONE, 1800/17)

Submarines Reported.

1310. D.F. 56° - 57° N., 21° - 22° W. (V.A.S. to CLYDE, 1419/17).

1623. D.F. probably U/B, 59.30 N., 19° to 22° W. at 1623. (C.in C. W.A. 1717/17).

1207. 51° to 52° N., 16° to 17° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 409).

0255. A.F. message 60.46 N., 16.30 W. at 0155/17 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0403/17).

0400. Convoy S.C.7 attacked in 59.10 N., 18.34 W. at 0400. Am hunting. (SCARBOROUGH, 0401/17) BLUEBELL and FOWEY to assist (C.in C. W.A. 0659/17).

0255. Convoy O.B. 228 attacked in 60.46 N., 16.30 W. (FOLKESTONE, 0255/17). Suspected submarine escaping on the surface. Request air assistance. (FOLKESTONE, 0615/17) LEITH and HEARTSEASE to return and attack submarine (C.in C. W.A. 0407/17).

0830. U/B reported by aircraft in 59.03 N., 17.06 W. (D.D.I.C. 0952/17). Unless in contact rejoin convoy forthwith. Aircraft reported over submarine in 59.03 N., 17.06 W. at 0830. (C.in C. W.A. 1021/17) (Aircraft 210 Sqdn., 0900/17).

0835. D.F. U/B in approx. position 45° N., 05° W. at 0835, may enter Gironde p.m. today. (V.A.S. 1139/17 to TALISMAN) (D.S. 408).

/ 1030. ....

MOST SECRET.

17.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported (Continued).

1030. By aircraft of D/10 Sqdn., 47.37 N., 10.54 W., Co. 277, speed 8 knots. (15 Group, 1030/17).

0800. U/B in position 56.32 N., 22.00 W., steering 290° at 0800/17. U/B is aware of my presence. (CLYDE, 1417/17).

0625. N.E. of 58.30 N., - 59.30 N., 12° - 14° W., indefinite (.D.S. 408).

Mediterranean.

? time. 31.20 N., 29.25 E. Sunderland sent to assist trawlers to attack. Submarine not located. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1244/17).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian. 1 about 150' W. of Gironde at 0830/17.

German. 1 in vicinity of 45 N 16 W at 1006/17.
1 in 47° 37' N. 10° 54' W. at 1010/17.
1 in 49° 24' N. 9° 15' W. at 0945/16 and
1 in vicinity 51-52 N. 15° to 17° W. at 1131/17.

These reports may indicate U/B Patrols in Western Approaches.

1 about 150 miles to South Westward of Rockall.
1 to Westward of Rockall East of 20' W.
1 in 59 N. 17 W. at 0830/17.
1 in about 60° 30' N. 17 W at 0405/17.
1 in vicinity of Rosemary Bank probably to North Eastward.
1 in nearer N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.

(D.D.I.C. 1358/17.)

Submarines Attacked.

0405. My 0255 (attack on O.B. 228). 060° 46' N. 016° 30' W. of 0230/17.
Apparently submarine surfaced after attack between columns 5 and 6 on reverse course of convoy, was unaware of presence of any escort. On sighting FOLKESTONE, retired on the surface at high speed and would have continued to do so had she not been put down by gunfire. Anti/submarine set operating, perfectly explosed, good, but contact could not be obtained over 1000 yards (i) all sank. (FOLKESTONE, 1800/17) (D.S., 408).

/ 0405. .....

MOST SECRET.

17.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked (Continued).

0405. Sighted submarine astern of Convoy on surface. Chased for 14 minutes without gaining, put down with gunfire. Gained contact and attacked, now lost contact and am searching. (FOLKESTONE, 0405/17). Suspected submarine escapting on the surface. Request air assistance. (FOLKESTONE, 0615/17) 60.40 N., 17° W. (D.S. 408).

1100. By CHELSEA and ARABIS, 55.32 N., 6.20 W. (A.3) (D.S. 408).

1010. Sunderland attacked U/B unsuccessfully in 47.37 N., 10.54 W., at 1000/17. (C.in C. W.A. 1101/17) (H.Q. Plymouth, 2050/17).

0818. By aircraft 210 Sqdn., 59.10 N., 17.50 W. SCARBOROUGH made contact at 0900. (A.C.H.Q. Donibristle 1705/17). Am investigating aircraft attack on submarine in 59.10 N., 17.44 W. (SCARBOROUGH 0900/17). Dropped 3 patterns on firm contact, remaining in vicinity. (SCARBOROUGH, 1050/17).

TRIDENT attack on U/B. 8/10. My 2311/14 TRIDENT reports first hearing H.E. of U Boat at 0504/8 when TRIDENT was submerged. Attempted to fire torpedoes but was in an unfavourable position. TRIDENT surfaced and chased U Boat. Whilst closing TRIDENT fired a total of eight torpedoes from the quarter. Torpedoes missed one being seen to pass ahead of U Boat. TRIDENT closed to 40 and fired two rounds of S.A.P. The second round hitting. Sparks of shell hitting hull were clearly visible before U Boat dived. It is possible S.A.P. shell pierced hull and exploded internally. No H.E. heard after U Boat disappeared, though echo contact possibly of U Boat on -the bottom was obtained and held. TRIDENT remained in vicinity until 0900. On returning to this position on 11/10 intense A/S activity was encountered. No certainty that U Boat was sunk as it is possible that shell pierced conning tower and not hull. If so, conning tower only might be flooded and submarine could return to base. (V.A.S. 1206/17).

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.10.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Sweep between Flushing and Ijmuiden

1st M.T.B. Flotilla operated between Flushing and Ijmuiden last night. M.T.B. 14 fouled wreckage off Breakwaters Haven Gat and sustained damage, and the sweep was abandoned.

M.T.B. Engagement with 3 trawlers

There were indications of enemy surface craft activity in the eastern end of the Channel this afternoon, and M.T.B. 69 and Norwegian M.T.B. 5 proceeded to investigate. 3 large enemy trawlers were sighted, apparently minesweeping, 14 miles S.E. of Dover. M.T.B. fired two torpedoes and apparently hit one of the enemy, and our forces then retired in face of attack by 4 E or R boats.

Operation D.H.

Phase two has been abandoned owing to low visibility. HOOD with screen and Force D are returning to Scapa.

Dover Shelled

Dover was shelled today. H.M.T.CLYTHNESS was damaged by splinters. One naval and other casualties were caused.

S/M Watch on Brest

The information which led to the engagement with 4 enemy destroyers yesterday was obtained fortuitously from a returning bomber aircraft. C. in C., W.A. urges that a S/M watch on Brest should be maintained.

Destroyers

Owing to recent casualties to Home Fleet destroyers KEPPEL and DOUGLAS which were lent to Western Approaches Command were today again placed under the orders of C. in C., Home Fleet.

Rosyth

Rosyth was closed at 0758 today, owing to fog.

Command of Home Fleet

V.A. J.C.Tovey C.B.,D.S.O. is appointed C. in C., H.F. to date 2/12, in succession to Admiral of the Fleet Sir Charles M Forbes, K.C.B., D.S.O.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.10.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Fog seriously interfered with flying today; most patrols and many R.C. flights were cancelled.

Coastal Command carried out successful R.C. of Norwegian Coast from Bjorn̊sund to Lister Light.

Enemy Air Activity

Damage and casualties were caused in an attack on COLLINGWOOD this afternoon.

Mining

Minelaying last night by enemy aircraft is suspected in the Thames Estuary and off Southwold.

The movement of KING GEORGE V from anchorage to lock at Rosyth was postponed until to-morrow, on account of suspected minelaying.

Inchki̊eth is now open.

Operations Against Vichy French

CORNWALL this evening intercepted off Cape St. Anne and stopped the French INDO→CHIOIS which is believed to be taking French troops from Dakar to Libreville or elsewhere in French West Africa. CORNWALL turned INDO-CHINOIS back to Dakar

Mediterranean

Submarine DURBO, sunk.

The Italian submarine DURBO after having been located by a flying boat of 202 Squadron was attacked by FIREDRAKE this evening in the Western Mediterranean. The crew abandoned ship and the submarine sank later, 5 officers and 43 men being saved by FIREDRAKE.

VALF

R.A. H.D.Pridham-Wippell C.B.,C.V.O., is appointed to be V.A.L.F. and 2nd I/c Medtn. Fleet, with acting rank and Vice-Admiral in succession to V.A. J.C.Tovey.

/Operations....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.10.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operations By REGENT

M.O.I.C. Malta reports that on 30/9 REGENT unsuccessfully attacked the Italian battle fleet south of Taranto.
On 9/10 she sank a 5000 to 6000 ton partially laden ship in convoy 20 miles out from Durazzo. REGENT has various defects resulting from these operations.

America & West Indies

A report has been received from the Governor of the Leeward Is. that EMILE BERTIN and JEANNE D'ARC were at sea 15 miles to the westward of Martinique at 1550 today.

MOST SECRET.

18.10.40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signal. — At 1400/18. (D.C.1401/18).

Increased Readiness. — The Chiefs of Staff have decided that as from October 19th the Service Ministries should be instructed that all forces prepared to resist invasion should be held at an increased state of readiness.
2. Home Forces will "stand to" from Noon Saturday 19th October.
3. C's in C. should take such action as they consider appropriate to increase the degree of readiness but leave should not be curtailed.
(V.C.N.S.2351/18).

Policy.

SEAWOLF. — In view of Adty's 1759/17, I consider that SEAWOLF should complete her Patrol in the Fro Havet area.
(C.in C. H.F. 1154/18 to V.A.S.)

Submarine watch on Brest. — The information that destroyers had sailed from Brest on the 17th October was obtained entirely fortuitously from a returning bomber aircraft.
2. Although P.R.U. reports are most valuable they cannot be sufficiently frequent to give early information of the enemy movements and also there are inevitably blank days due to unsuitable weather.
3. As it is not practical to maintain an air patrol off Brest the only means of obtaining early information of enemy movements is from submarine patrol.
4. While realising the shortage of submarines, it is considered that a submarine watch on Brest should be maintained even at the expense of anti-invasion patrols elsewhere.
(C.in C. W.A. 1947/18 to Adty).
Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S. H. 3320/18 to V.A.S.)

Importance of Capturing Prisoners. — Information obtained from prisoners taken from enemy Naval or Merchant vessels and prizes may be of vital importance and every possible opportunity of capturing prisoners must be used.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1958/18. A.G.M. 482A.).

MOST SECRET.

18.10.40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

CLEVELAND. — Detailed to escort BEN MY CHREE to Aberdeen and then L.23 from Dundee to Scapa. (C.in C. H.F. 1026/18 to R.A.D. and R.A.D. H.F. 1515/18 to A.C.O.S.)

ETTRICK. KARANJA. AUSTRALIA. ECHO, GRIFFIN. — F.O.C.N.A's 1350/17. Movments are postponed. (D.O.D. F. 1042/18 to C.in C. W.A.)

KEPPEL. — Your 1749/17. Yes. Please sail KEPPEL to Scapa. (C.in C. H.F. 1047/18 to C.in C. W.A.)

ISIS. — My 2040/16. For FAME read ISIS. (A.C.N.S. H. 1145/18 to C.in C. H.F.)

Nore Command. — Movements for night to 1200/19. (C.in C. Nore 1200/18 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

FERNIE. — Your 1159. Expected time of arrival Garrison Point 1515. (FERNIE 1224/18 to C.in C. Nore).

AMARAPOORA. — 735. AMARAPOORA required 1500 tons of coal and 2,000 tons of water. As it will take 7 days to coal at Scapa and ship also requires small repairs, request arrangements may be ma e for her to proceed to Clyde. She will be relieved at Scapa by ISLE OF JERSEY. Latter in turn relieving VASNA on return of AMARAPOORA. (A.C.O.S. 1237/18 to Adty).

WANDERER. — Proceed to Liverpool at 1900/18. (C.in C. W.A. 1513/18 to WAND RER). Fighter protection requested. (C.in C. W.A. 2357/18 to H.Q.F.C.)

Portsmouth. — Movements for night 18/19. (C.in C. Portsmouth D1527/18).

Orkneys. — Movements for night 18/19. (F.O.C.C.O.S. 1531/18).

Northern Patrol. — Trawler lines on 18th. (A.C.O.S. 1536/18).

Dover. — Patrols for night 18/19. (V.A. Dover 1553/18 and 1636/18).

Western Channel. — Nightreport. (C.in C. W.A. 1635/18).

MOST SECRET.

18.10.40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd).

ALERT.

C.in C. Portsmouth 1627/9. Request you sail ALERT as convenient to Portsmouth for onward routing to Newhaven. (D.D.O.D. H. 1757/18 to C.in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Force F.

4 Destroyers sighted in 48° 40'N., 6° 20' W and rear destroyer was bombed at 1827/17 No hits observed. (Air Ministry 0120/18 to H.Q.C.C.)

C.in C. W.A. 1521/17 indicated presence of 4 enemy destroyers steering N.N.W. on converging course. At 1602 in 49° 30'N 6° 40'W sighted suspicious vessel on Port bow bearing 200. Course of Force F at time 260 degrees 26 knots. Increased to full speed and altered course towards enemy.

1607. NEWCASTLE opened fire at extreme range, approximately 25,000 yards, and EMERALD opened fire periodically to test range but was never within her maximum gun range. Destroyers formed on a line of bearing 260° from NEWCASTLE, EMERALD being 080° from NEWCASTLE, in open order. Signalled "chase". Enemy made small alterations of course to Port from approximately 197° to finally 110° during the period of the engagement.

1621. Enemy laid first smoke screen by dropping floats and making C.S.A. smoke in turn periodically throughout the action. This formed a heavy white cloud and made spotting fall of salvoes extremely difficult.

1630. 2 German Float-planes appeared to westward. 5th D.F. opened fire and they made off.

1640. EMERALD opened fire on Heinkel.

1650. NEWCASTLE catapulted Walrus aircraft Owing to defective steam valve JUPITER was unable to keep up with the remainder of Force F. who were doing about 32½ knots and by 1700 she was 3 miles astern.

MOST SECRET.

18.10.40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Force F. (Contd.)

1720. Sailing vessel sighted bearing 213°. NEWCASTLE instructed D 5 to detach JUPITER to investigate. D.5 ordered her to do this and take off any French or Germans on board to be interrogated. JUPITER found it was a tunny fishing ship and brought the French Captain back in spite of his violent protests.

1738. German destroyers observed to turn to Port together and fired torpedoes At this time nearest German destroyer was 19,200 yards from JACKAL, and just over 20,000 yards from NEWCASTLE Force F turned to a course of approximately 196° to comb the tracks. 3 tracks were seen to pass between EMERALD and NEWCASTLE, EMERALD actually seeing one turn a circle and disappear. Another 8 tracks were seen passing clear to Port of EMERALD by Walrus aircraft.

1750. Resumed course of 150°. NEWCASTLE again opened fire.

1801 Attacked by medium level bombers. Dornier dropped stick of bombs just astern of NEWCASTLE after being engaged by all vessels.

Enemy destroyers were now disappearing and visibility and light deteriorating . The last destroyer lost out of sight and ceased firing 1810.

1812. Course 110° Further bombing attack. Bombs fell between destroyers and NEWCASTLE. (perhaps Dornier 17).

1816. 3 Blenheims arrived and identified themselves to JACKAL who replied with 3 R's. The Blenheims then made off in the direction of the enemy.

During these bombing attacks EMERALD was attacked on five occasions but bombs never fell closer than 300 yards.

1817. Walrus was ordered to return to base as firing had ceased and enemy was out of sight.

1818. 2 Blenheims carried out low gliding

/attacks.

MOST SECRET.

18.10.40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Force F. (Contd). attacks on KASHMIR nad KELVIN from their Starboard beam but luckily missed. When the destroyers saw that they could not avoid the attacks they opened fire.

1823. Altered course to 310° broke off the engagement. No enemy in sight. Ushant light then bore 091° 36 miles.

1839. NEWCASTLE's Walrus aircraft landed in the sea and was hoisted in to NEWCASTLE, the pilot Lieut. Gough making a good landing in spite of being wounded in an engagement with a Dornier 17. After engaging the Walrus the Dornier retired being apparently chased away by one of our Blenheim bombers. Course was then set on a retiring course to the North Westward at 25 knots returning to Plymouth at 0800/18.
(C.in C. W.A. 1633/18 to Adty).

Convoy F.N.11
GASFIRE.
HAUXLEY.
P.L.M.14.

GASFIRE in tow at 52° 57'N., 2° 2'E. at 15 knots. PINTAIL in company.
(WIVERN 0610/18 to C.in C. Nore).

HAUXLEY sank suddenly at 0645 about 50° 3' 30"N., 1° 35'30" E. while in tow.
(WORCESTER 0655/18 to N.O.I.C. Humber).

My position Sheringham Light Buoy. Tow has parted. P.L.M.14 is making water steadily. (Capt. D.16 0955/18 to N.O.I.C. Humber).

My 0313. Yarmouth Tugs have not sailed owing to fog. (C.in C. Nore 0959/18 to D.16).

S.S. HAUXLEY sank while in tow of WORCESTER at 0645 53° 03' 30" N., 01° 35' 30"E. MALCOLM and WIVERN towing S.S. P.L.M.14 and GASFIRE to Humber were at Sheringham Light Buoy at 0830 speed 4 knots WORCESTER in company. PUFFIN expects to arrive Humber 1145 with crews of HAUXLEY and P.L.M.14. Tugs have left Humber to take over tow but tugs ordered out from Yarmouth have not sailed owing to fog.
(C.in C. Nore 1046/18 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

18.10.40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMAND.

Operations.

Convoy F.N.11. GASFIRE. HAUXLEY. PLM.14. (Contd.)

My position 52° 56'N., 1° 56'E. speed 3 knots. Tugs urgently required. Tow has parted twice. Visibility minimum.
(WIVERN 1200/18 to C.in C. Nore).

Arrived in Humber at 1200, PUFFIN with survivors of HAUXLEY and PLM.14.
(F.O. Humber 1340/18 to Adty).

My 1454. Draught of PLM.14 now 38 feet. Am escorting to Humber by swept channels. My position 53° 12'N., 1° 8' E. steering 355° at 5 knots.
(Capt.D.16 1645/18 to C.in C. Nore).

Force D. (Tromso).

Operation D.H. Phase 2 abandoned owing to low visibility. H.M.S. HOOD with screen and Force D. return to Scapa. H.M.S. DOUGLAS and H.M.S. ISIS preceed to Skaale Fiord Faroes and escort Oiler MONTENOL to Scapa. H.M.S. DUNCAN is to join Force D. H.M.S. HOOD'S position will be 063° North 004° West at 1400 course 180° speed of advance 15 knots.
(F.O.C.1st B.C.S. 1122/18 to Force D).

Iceland.

Adty's 1900/13. Estimated minimum time for turn-round of personnel ships in fine weather 8 days. Bad weather would delay return 2 or 3 days.
(F.O.I.C. Reykjavik 1240/18 to Adty).

Your 1900/13. Confined LETITIA will call at Reykjavik 31/10.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1622/18 to Adty).

Patrol off Smiths Knoll.

70 ft. M.T.B's. are to establish anti-E Boat patrol on silent engines tonight Friday between Smith's Knoll light float and 56 buoy returning Harwich at daylight keeping clear of F.S.convoy due position Z 0630/19.
(C.in C. Nore 1246/18 to BEEHIVE.)

Sweep between Flushing and Ijmuiden.

BEEHIVE reports following track taken by 1st M.T.B. Flotilla. M.T.B.14 fouled wreckage off Brenwers Haven Gat and sustained damage. Sweep was abandoned and no surface vessels seen.
(C.in C. Nore 1417/18 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

18.10.40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMAND.

Western Channel Patrol.

Operations.

A/S Trawlers to patrol AX.
(C.in C. W.A. 1537/18 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

VENETIA.

In view of 220 QZX, patrol between 10 and A Buoy.
(Capt. D.21 1620/18 to VENETIA).

Operations Active and Pungent.

Your 1544/17. Approved for ships to be reduced to C and M, and for BRONDARIS, AMAZONE, and RAIN now at Chatham to be towed to London Docks.
(D.O.D. H. 1726/18 to C.in C. Nore).

3 Enemy Trawlers attacked off Dover.

Special Intelligence material at about 141 /18 indicated enemy surface craft active between bearings of 150° and 160° . At 1452 this was confirmed by Dover C.H.L. distance about 12 miles. I therefore immediately despatched M.T.B. 69 and Norwegian M.T.B. 5 to investigate, the weather being overcast with visibility 3 to 4 miles. 3 large enemy trawlers about 600 tons apparently minesweeping on an easterly course were sighted in position 150° Dover 14 miles at range of 4 miles. M.T.B's closed at high speed, M.T.B. 69 firing two torpedoes at a range of 3000 yards. 2 large columns of water observed amidships on rear ship. M.T.B. 69 retired under smoke as 4 escorting E or R boats moved out to the attack. M.T.B. 5 did not fire as enemy boats were attacking and her torpedoes were set to 1500 yards high speed setting. On retiring M.T.B. 5 was fired at presumably by E or R boats but not hit. This encounter was largely due to the accurate initial bearing obtained by South Foreland (V.A.Dover 1841/18 to Adty).

Operation LUCID.

Prepare to carry out on night 1/2 November (A.C.N.S. H. 1955/18 to C.in C. Nore).

Dover Shelled.

Approximately twelve shells fell in Dover area between 1122 and 1309 today. One shell fell near Admiralty Pier 6" Battery, and remainder fell as follows:-
One in Granville Dock one inside Harbour, two in town, three in the sea and four behind Leathercoates Signal Station.
CLYTHNESS damaged by splinters.
Casualties:- Naval, one wounded: Military. One killed and three wounded: Civilian, One killed. (V.A.Dover 2006/18 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

18.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

TALISMAN. At your discretion proceed along line 250° from Gironde where U-Boat might be met. (Capt. S.2. 1134/18 to TALISMAN).

H. 28. Leave Z at 1430/18 and return to Harwich. Route. (S.O. Submarines Harwich 1221/18 to H.28).

O. 24. Passes Bell Rock 1900/18. Route thence. (Capt. S.9. 1531/18 to O. 22).

CACHALOT } Estimated off Bishop Rock at 0800/20.
TAKU } Movements after. (Capt. S.2. 1707/18).

PORPOISE Shift Patrol by sunrise 20/10 to following area. (Capt. S.2. 1726/18).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0700/19. (V.A.S. 1756/18, 1901/18, 2116/18).

H. 28 Report. H 28 reports she carried out at 1640/10 an unsuccessful attack with two torpedoes on a vessel thought to bea 1000 ton store ship which subsequently dropped distant depth charges. H.49's time table of A/S Trawler sweeps given in my 0957/7 was not followed regularly but Sturgeons Channel was frequently swept.
(S.O. Submarines Harwich 2015/18 to V.A.S.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols cancelled. S.A.I.E., S.A.2 N., and Offensive Patrol Horns Reef to Lister cancelled owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0920/18 to C.in C. H.F.)

Trondheim. My 2003/17. R/C Trondheim not yet possible. (C.in C. Rosyth 0932/18 to Adty.)
R/C 061° to Trondheim will take off shortly. (C.in C. Rosyth 1214/18 to C.in C. H.F.)

Norwegian Coast. A R/C 061° N. to Lister is now operating. (C.in C. Rosyth 1214/18 to C.in C. H.F.)

Aircraft reported shot down in Lapland. Your 1826/17. No British aircraft reported as shot ?down in Finnish Lapland but (?Officer Commanding Troops) Ivalo tells me he personally heard sounds of heavy gunfire and possibly bombing not far from Kirkenes at about 2200 October 16th. He is making enquiries and will advise me later today of any further news.
(Petsamo 1341/17 to Adty.)

S.A.3. } S.A.3 and 2 southern tracks of S.A.2 not
S.A.2 } being flown tonight.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1446/18 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

18.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Belgian Trawler O.86. Reports being bombed and machine-gunned 23 miles South of Kinsale at 1800/17. No casualties. Trawling gear lost. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1214/18 to Adty.).

COLLINGWOOD (Portsmouth) COLLINGWOOD reports bombing attack by one machine at 1410/18. Four bombs dropped. Estimated two unexploded. Casualties twelve Naval and six Wrens - none fatal. Gas electric and water mains out of action. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1605/18 to Adty.)

Mining.

Sheerness E/S Area. Admiralty 1901/8. The great majority of the new mines appear to have been dropped in the Thames estuary in the Sheerness mine sweeping area. Arrangements should therefore be made with Commodore i/c Sheerness for the special vessels operating from Harwich to sweep in this area when they are ready to do so. A mine was observed to be dropped in position 195° East BARROW Lt. vessel. 1 mile on 9th and is believed to be still there, magnetic sweeping having failed to detonate it. Mines are now being dropped nightly in vicinity of Medway and Thames Booms. (C.in C. Nore 1047/18 to F.O. Harwich).

Inchkeith. Port is now open. (XDO Inchkeith 1412/18 to C.in C. H.F.)

KINGSTON CAIRNGORM. Mined and sunk 17/10. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1540/18 to N.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

Experimental Sweeping ahead of Convoys. My 1823/7/10. This will be repeated by 4 ships of 5th M/S Flotilla ahead of O.A.232 sailing on 20/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 1725/18 to C.in C. W.A.).

Rosyth. Patrol boat reported a splash near main ship Channel at 0515/18 in a thick fog. She also reported having twice heard engines of aircraft flying veryhigh some time before the splash. Report of sound of aircraft corroborated from one other source and it was decided that KING GEORGE V could not enter until the main ship Channel had been thoroughly swept and counter mining carried out. As the magnetic sweeping could not be completed in time the movement of H.M.S. KING GEORGE V. from anchorage to lock has been postponed until P.M. 19th. (C.in C. Rosyth 1809/18 to Admty.)

/ Fleet sweepers .....

MOST SECRET.

18.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued)

Fleet sweepers swept F/S convoy through 148 QZS. from Z to N E Swin, one mine cut and destroyed clear of Channel in 52° 1.2' N 1° 48' E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1927/18 to Adty.)

Falmouth. Mine exploded in Sweep in 49° 59' 30" N. 5° 5' W. Channel not yet complete.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1933/18 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Lister. One M/V 5000 tons in 58° 40' N. 5° 20' E. steering South at 6 knots. (Aircraft of 269 Sqdn. 1315/18).

Trondheim. 2 M/V's and 1 submarine. (Aircraft of 248 Sqdn. 1355/18). R/C of Coastwise Vessels 1435 to 1540/18 (Donibristle 1920/18)

Indications of Enemy Craft on line Eddystone to Brest, possibly in Brest. D.F. report.
(C.in C. W.A. 2021/18 to KIPLING, BLYSKAWICA).

Faroes. Unidentified Ship about 2000 tons passed Skopen Fiord eastbound at 2000. Speed 8 to 10 knots. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 2300/18 to Adty.)

Miscellaneous.

Rosyth Port is closed owing to Fog.
(XDO Rosyth 0758/18 to C.in C. Rosyth).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.10.1940
Friday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

MAURETANIA — Your 0707/12. Presume she can still be used in U.S. 8. (D.S.T. 0308/18 to A.C.N.B.) My 0707Z/12. Defects are as follows. Owners representative satisfied that steaming on 4 boilers satisfactory for Trooping requirements, leaving pre-heater repairs for a convenient opportunity. (A.C.N. B. 0906/18 to D. of S.T.)

SALANDA — My 1055B/15. Arrived Durban (S.O.I. Cape Town 0905B/18 to Admty.

FAME
ASHANTI — C. in C., Home Fleet's 1043/18. During night 17/18th heavy swell set in seriously damaging both ships, necessitating removal of crews by Breeches Buoy, as swell was running right over upper deck. Have personally inteviewed Salvage Officer who reports further efforts to float ASHANTI and FAME cannot be made before next spring tide, about November 1st. Efforts will be made to remove guns and other weights, but situation of ships makes this work difficult All valuable stores and ammunition being removed today. Ship's Company accommodated in Army Huts on Shore. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1218/ 18 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.10.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
O.A. 229	Aircarft forthwith to 270° until 25° where convoy is to disperse. (to avoid U-Boat reported in 58° 15' N., 21° 29' W., at 0829) (C. in C., W.A. 1010/18) JASON, COREOPSIS, HIBISCUS to leave O.A. 229 in time to meet H.X. 79 in accordance with my 1050/18 (C. in C., 1210/18)
H.X. 79	Route (C. in C., W.A., 0100/18 to MONTCLARE etc.,) Orders to aircraft to avoid U-Boat (C. in C., W.A. 1050/18)
W.N. 24	See GLEN BEGG below.
F.N. 12	Corvette escort WIDGEON and PINTAIL (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1645/18) Postponed owing to fog. F.N. 12 fast sails 0800/19, Code words "Agent one" then "Lunch one" (C. in C., Rosyth 1729/18)
F.N. 14	Slow sails 0900/19, Code words "Agent two" the "Lunch two" (C. in C., Rosyth 1729/18)
F.S. 12	HARRIER, GOSSAMER to carry out oropesa sweep ahead (C. in C., Nore, 1705/18)
O.A. 231	HASTINGS and FLEUR DE LYS escorting (N.C.S.O. Methil 1141/18) List 1142/18)
H.X. 81	Sailing telegram. Escort VOLTAIRE, etc., (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1131/17)
H.X. 80	List and destinations (D.T.D. 1309/18)
SVEADROTT CASTOR	Informing submarines on patrol of their route. (V.A(S) 0603/18, 2039/18) N.O.I.C. Faroes 1203/17 (fishing smack mined) Presume consideration is being given to routeing the ship through safe waters (C. in C., H.F., 1105/18 t to Admty.) Now leaving Kristiansand 19/10. Speed, route etc. (D.O.D. (H) 1319/18) Your 1105/18. The disadvantages of routeing these ships by any other way is considered to outweigh the possibility of them being damaged in their passage through the Skopen Fiord. (D.O.D.(H) 1837/18 to C. in C., H.F.) Position 1800/18 G.M.T. (Scapa W/T T.O.R. 1930/18, 1934/18)
GLEN BEGG	Intend sailing escorted by LA MALOUINE today. LA MALOUINE on arrival off Bar Light to proceed to overtake W.N. 24 sailing from Clyde 1000/19 (F.O. Greenock 1227/18)

/PRETORIA CASTLE...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.10.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping- Contd.

PRETORIA CASTLE GLEANER	Position and time of R.V. with local escort (C. in C., WA. 2120/18, 2155/18)
Suspect Ship	Passed east to west 1100/18 ship about 3000 ? tons SWITZERLAND PLATE CALANDA on bow. If she is suspect please advise N.I. and S.O.I. Gibraltar repectively B.V.C. (Horta, 1530/18)

MOST SECRET.

18.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

STRASBOURG etc. Appreciation of local situation. Re intercepting STRASBOURG and patrol off Casablanca. Possibility of retaliation on Gibraltar if force used. To our advantage if French prepared to accept status quo in territory now under Free French control. (S.O. Force H 1441/18.)
Your 2202/17 and D.N.I. 1939/17. French N.A. says he knows nothing of any movement but STRASBOURG repaired and all warships at Toulon frequently go out for exercises. (N.A. Madrid, 1210/18 to V.A. Gib.)

French movements. Gibraltar 18/10 1530 COMMANDANT DELAGE escorting CONGO passing from West to East. 1700 COMMANDANT DELAGE returned westbound. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1753/18.)

Reinforcements for Libreville. Following received from N.C.S.O. Duala. Reported Libreville is expecting reinforcements from Dakar. (C.S.1 1031/18 to DELHI).

North Atlantic.

RENOWN Temporary repairs to bulge completed and fuel embarked to full stowage (S.O. Force H 0853/18). Asking what further time required to complete repairs intended in his 0901/14 (V.C.N.S. 1554/18) N.A. Madrid's 1210/18. My 1926/17 (RENOWN to come to short notice for steam) is to remain in force for the present (A.C.N.S. (F) 1707/18).

Evacuation of troops AUSTRALIA etc. Your 2333/16 Para. 2. Military personnel were embarked in ETTRICK Naval personnel in AUSTRALIA. About 450 Poles and mixed personnel remaining (?now being) embarked in REINA DEL PACIFICO.
In view of your 1856/17 and your 1921/17 should REINA DEL PACIFICO be sailed tonight. (F.O.C. N.A. 0930/18).
My 1254/17. AUSTRALIA, ECHO, GRIFFIN, ETTRICK, KARANJA have returned to Gibraltar on orders. (F.O.C. N.A. 1204/18.)
My 0920/18. 0930/18 presumably intended. Propose transferring Naval and Military personnel from AUSTRALIA and ETTRICK to REINA DEL PACIFICO. (F.O.C. N.A. 1638/18).
N.A. Madrid's 1210/18. Cancel my 1921/17. AUSTRALIA with transports and destroyers are to be sailed as soon as practicable. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1706/18).

Cancel my 1638/18. (F.O.C. N.A. 1845/18.)

/ Your 1221/17. ...

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic. (Continued)

Your 1221/17. AUSTRALIA, ESCAPADE, ECHO escorting ETTRICK, KARANJA, sail 2200/18. Estimated speed of advance 12 knots. T. A. position (c) 1200/22. (F.O.C.N.A. 2046A/18.)

South Atlantic. (Continued)

SALANDA — (Overdue) My 1055 B/15, arrived Durban (S.O.(I) Capetown 0905 B/18).
At 1330 Minus One unsuccessfully engaged small twin engine monoplane flying boat in 000° 38' N. 008° 34' E. Enemy initial course 180° final escape on North Easterly course. Request information whether Free French possess Flying Boat and description thereof. (DELHI 2229/18 to F.O.C. 1st C.S.).

Freetown air defences. — Your 1837/9. No increase can be made at present. Question will be reconsidered next month. (V.C.N.S. 2246/18 to C.in C. S.A.)

M.V.'s and Hospital Ship. — Your 2114/16 Dept of Defence, South Africa, assure me full and continuous employment exists for SELANDIA. They further desire to retain LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE for present, but are prepared to reconsider retention of latter vessel from month to month. They are pressing for reply for Admiralty regarding Hospital ship as G.O.C. Nairobi is asking for assurance that one will be available first December.
N.O.I.C. Simonstown 2210/18, to D.of S.T.

Mediterranean.

Reinforcements. M.T. ships. — Re Adty. 2240/9, 1911/10, 2344/10, C.in C. Med. 1421/14, F.O. Force H 1932/10. Adty's proposals (Adty. 0205/18, 1059/18) My 0205/18 and S.O. Force H 0914/17. Date of sailing from U.K. cannot be advanced. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1327/18 to C.in C. Med.).

SPHINX. — French hospital ship, due to leave Marseilles for Beirut 21/10 arrive 27/10 C.in C. Mediterranean 0127/18).

Benghazi. — Aircraft R.C. p.m./16. 3 M.V's about 5000 tons in harbour, 2 of about 10,000 tons lying 2 miles outside, 5 of about 9000 tons entering harbour. (Capt. (S) 1421/18 to OSIRIS).

/ Reinforcement. .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued)

Reinforcement. M.T. ships. — S.O. Force H 0914/17. Concur that sailing from U.K. should be expedited. Conditions desirable. (C.in C. Med. 1447/18).

VALF — R-A. H.D. Pridham-Wippell C.B., C.V.O., to be VALF and 2nd i/C. Mediterranean Fleet with acting rank of V-A. in succession to V-A. J.C. Tovey C.B., D.S.O. (Hd. of M. 2000/18).

Appointment. — Admty. 2041/10. Concur appt. of Capt. Chambers as S.O. N.A.S.E. (C.in C. Med. 2023/18).

Ionian Sea. R.C. — Weather promoted aircraft R.C. of Ionian Sea being complete 18/10 (Gov. Malta 2012/18).

A/A guns destroyers. — Admty. 1843/11. Mediterranean condition does not at present justify removal of after torpedo tubes in destroyers later than A class or number three mounting in TRIBAL to mount A/A armament. Fitting of 3" or 12 pdrs. in lieu of after tubes and 0.5" in lieu of pom-poms in Australian V class is proceeding.
(C.in C. Med., 1535/18 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence. — Tel. No. 1169/18/10. Following (A.2) information received from reliable source:
(a) In addition to those destroyers sunk night of October 11th the CAMICIA NERA was badly damaged.
(b) The turrets of LITTORIO and VITTURIO VENETO are giving considerable trouble.
(c) No confirmation that Graziani is being relieved of his command.
(d) Feeling in royalist circles in Italy running high against Germany suggests good opportunity for dropping leaflets.
(N.A. Washington 1139/18).

French ship bombed. — At 0942 G.M.T./18 Beyrout reported to Admiral Duquesne that ANDRE LEBON was being bombed by unknown aircraft south at Crete. He replied aircraft was not British.
(Capt. O.S. Alexandria, 1647/18.)

Turkey. — Re assistance to. Situation. (N.A. Anzora, from Adm. Kelly, 1300/18 and 1700/18) (See Mediterranean Volume).

/ Operations by REGENT. .....

MOST SECRET.

18.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued)

Operations by REGENT.

REGENT unsuccessfully attacked Italian battle fleet south of Taranto on 30/9. In South Adriatic few convoys sighted and Italy - Albania route not discovered. 5/10 - in collision with caique, damaging foremost hydroplanes. 9/10 - sank 5 - 5 thousand ton partially laden ship in convoy 20 miles out from Durazzo. Escort of 20 knot ship painted like merchantman and 2 M A S severely hunted causing damage to Y and Z tanks. 11/10 - unsuccessful attack on small tanker N.E. of Brindisi. 13/10 - starboard foremost hydroplane dropped off on surfacing. Considerable A/S activity in Otranto Straits 9 to 13 October. Anticipate requires at least 4 weeks to make good defects. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1853/18.)

East Indies.

Assessing U-boat losses.

My 1136/16 add "para. 4 concur" (C.in C.E.I. 10752Z/18).

U.S.5.

Re - empties. To R.V. with U.S.5A. Escort to Gulf of Aden SHROPSHIRE, CARLISLE, KIMBERLEY, FLAMINGO (S.N.O. Red Sea 1524/18).

China.

Trade with Indo-China.

B.N.L.O. Saigon's 0210/22/9 and 0350/24/9 and my 1153/24/9. I have been in communication with Governor General of French Indo China concerning resumption of British Allied Trade which is of importance to Hong Kong. Under the orders from Vichy and fear of dismissal and loss of pension he is unable to agree to resumption. It is hoped however that it will be possible to restart some trade between Hong Kong and Indo China by transhipment at Kwang Chav Wan. In the meantime I am informed French are starting services at Saigon Haiphong Manila Shanghai using Messagerie ships which were laid up at Saigon. This will produce inevitable risk of them capturing a part of British China Coast trade.
(C.in C. China 0825Z/18).

Your 0911/1 appears to cancel A.M. 2313/28/9 concurring in A.C.N.B's 1300/25/9 proposing that allied ships might resume calls at New Caledonia and French ports in New Zealand Station.

2. Observing that these French possessions havejoined Free French cause request information whether you consider trade should remain suspended. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2242/18).

MOST SECRET.

18.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

LAURENT MELUS

Following from Los Angeles. Belgian tanker LAURENT MELUS with 8598 tons diesel oil obtaining clearance and leaving Los Angeles 19/10 for Singapore. Cargo said to be consigned Yokohama for Mitsui possibly on order. Captain passed us message that cargo intended for enemy and that he will receive instruction when at sea. Stated he will be very obliged if we pick him up. Ends. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0226/18.)

Purport of my 0226/18 has been passed to C.in C. A.W.I. in my 0927/18.
Singapore informed. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0933/18)

JACQUES COEUR MARCELLA

Governor Newfoundland's tel. of 17/10 reports probable sailing of trawlers JACQUES COEUR and MARCELLA 17/10. Can you intercept.
I am unwilling to delay Town destroyers by specially detailing them for this duty but any on passage to St.Johns could bring (?"them" omitted) in if they met them.
Telegram referred to was repeated to High Commissioner Ottawa.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 0817/18. to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

VAN KINSBERGEN to intercept HELGOLAND.

Cancel my 1052/12 S.O.(I) Kingston's 1130/18.
Proceed with all convenient despatch to establish patrol in approaches to Puerto COLOMBIA to capture HELGOLAND. Endeavour to avoid being sighted.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1141/18 to VAN KINSBERGEN)

Whaling Fleet.

Norwegian representative wishes them to sail in company for safety. Reported in German controlled Norwegian Press whaling fleet leaving Monte Video early in November.
(Willemstadd 1512/18).

U.S.A. destroyers.

BURNHAM, BUXTON, BRADFORD, BURWELL, and CHESTERFIELD arrived here approx. 1300 G.M.T. today. Defective oil fuel service pump in BRADFORD has been taken in hand locally.
My 1130/18 BROADWATER got bight of Manilla round port propeller shaft.
Very bad weather has substantially?hampered refuelling but hope to sail entire sixth division with BROADWATER and possibly CAMERON as soon as possible after noon tomorrow. (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F.1717/18.)

M.V. Guns.

List of Merchant Ships issued with Thompson gun equipment.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1134/18 to Admty.)

/ Report received .....

MOST SECRET.

18.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies.

Report received from Governor Leeward Islands that EMILE BERTIN and JEANNE D'ARC were at sea 15 miles to the westward of MARTINIQUE at 1530/18.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 2203/18.)

Australia.

U.S.7. Number of troops. Re ships. (A.C.N.B. 0829 Z/18).

MAURETANIA Re defects. (A.C.N.B. 0906 Z/18).

MOST SECRET.

18.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HELGOLAND. Barranquilla reports she has steam up and S.N.O. Curacoa pass to VAN KINSBERGEN (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1130/18).

ANTARKTIS. Report B 2 that German controlled ANTARKTIS is taking 2 tons provisions. As ship does not appear to be ready for sea suggest provisions may be loaded in turn awaiting fishing smacks for supply to enemy submarines outside Vigo bay. (Actg. Consul Vigo. 1914/18).

CERIGO. My 1847/14. CERIGO is reported in having difficulty in obtaining crew. Bunker stock of coal at present probably low (S.O.(I) Callao 1407/18).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.10.1940
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

Convoy S.C.7
Two Attacks

S.C. 7. attacked at 0145 in 058° 41' N., 014° 03' W., one ship hit. Port side of convoy swept by FOWEY, BLUEBELL without result. LEITH in company. (FOWEY 0247/18 C. in C., W.A. 0503/18)

One ship of S.C. 7. torpedoed in position 058° 45' N., 014° 07' W., at 0145. No further information is at present available. Have detached HEARTSEASE to look for her 1137 1602 5251. (LEITH 0520/18)

Contact not regained, am rejoining convoy. 59 40. 17 20. (SCARBOROUGH 1447/18)

Ship torpedoed reported Submarine on surface course 200 at 2154 in position 058° 29' N., 011° 10' W., (C. in C., W.A., 2257/18 to SCARBOROUGH, LEITH, FOWEY, BLUEBELL.)

Convoy again attacked at 2220. At least four ships torpedoed. Two or more U-Boats suspected. Chased U-Boat on surface for 15 minutes and put her down. (LEITH 2326/18)

Have not been in contact for an hour. Have detailed BLUEBELL to pick up survivors and stand by ship. Am rejoining Convoy with all despatch. (LEITH 2358/18)

Asking what escorts are with convoy. (C. in C., W.A., to SCARBOROUGH, 0109/19)

CARSBRECK
(Convoy S.C.7)

(3670 tons) Torpedoed 58° 48' N., 14° 9' W., (? 0145/18- D.O.R) ? 2230/17. Expected to make Glasgow under her own steam if weather fine. Escort by HEARTSEASE. (HEARTSEASE 0855/18) 58° 44' W., 14° 10' W., 0108/18 (FOWEY 1155/18)

SHEKATIKA
(Convoy S.C.7)

(British 5458 tons) torpedoed 57° 29' N., 11° 10' W., 2128/18 (Lands End T.O.R. 2230/18) Torpedoed in 57° 14' N., 11° W., capable of salvage crew abandoned (FOWEY 2310/18)

CONVALLARVA
(Convoy S.C.7)

(Swedish 1996 tons) Torpedoed 2020/18 (D.O.R)

ASSYRIAN
(Convoy S.C.7)

(2962 tons) Torpedoed in 57° 10' N., 10°38' W 2330 (Lands End Radio 2330/18, Valentia Radio 2230/18)

EMPIRE BRIGADE
(Convoy S.C.7)

(5154 tons) Torpedoed about 2330 (D.O.R)

BLAIRSPEY
See 19/10.

/BEARNLAWERS.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.10.1940
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

BENLAWERS (Sunk 6/10)

BENLAWERS owners W. Thompson, Leith, sunk 1108/6 in position 053° 50' N., 026° 00' W., by torpedo from submarine. Submarine not sighted. Ship sank immediately. Books and documents sank with ship. Second Officer and 15 others picked up by BENGORE HEAD remainder of crew last seen sailing East in 2 lifebcats (N.C.S.O. Boston, 1624/18)

SS OSCILLA
False Alarm

Gunned in 30° 18' N., 9° 24' W., near Cape Espichel (SS OSCILLA via Gibraltar WIT TOR 0345/18) Probable gunfire reported was d.c. dropped by KINGSTON TURQUOISE who was near. (F.O.C.N.A. 1219/18)

BRITISH GLORY (Torpedoed 15/10)

Arrived in tow of ENGLISHMAN, SCHELDE and MARAUDER (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1003/18)

SANDSEND

(3612 tons) Torpedoed 0930 in 58° 15' N., 21° 29' W. Straggler from O.B. 228. HIBISCUS to assist (C. in C., W.A., 1003/18 to JASON, Valentia Radio 0830/18)

DAVANGER (Torpedoed 11/10)

Norwegian tanker, 7102 tons. Convoy H.X. 77 Torpedoed 300' W of Broadhave 11/10. Chief Officer and 11 men landed Broadhaven. Master and 16 missing. (D.O.R.)

Lifeboat with 25 men rescued 55° 50' N., 7° 40' W., (C. in C., W.A. 1601/18, 1713/18 to ANTELOPE)

THISTLEGARTH (Torpedoed 15/10)

(4747 tons) Have picked up in 58° 45' N., 130° 27' W 9 survivors no casualties from THISTLEGARTH bound from Scapa to St. Lawrence torpedoed at 1655/15 in 58° 43' N., 15° 00' W On look out for another lifeboat with remainder of crew numbering 30 reported sailing towards land. (HEARTSEASE 1009/18)

ORAÐ (Sunk 12/10)

Your 1829/17 Ship was sunk on 12th October as the result of U-Boat attack in approx. position 035° 34' N., 010° 35' W., My 1660/12 and 2202/12 and reference 1640/12 S.O. Force "H" refers. (F.O.C.N.A., 1525/18 to Admty.)

/Submarines Reported

MOST SECRET

18.10.1940
Friday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0829 } 0930 }	58° 15' N., 21° 29' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1010/18)
0225	58° N., 14° W., unreliable fix. (A.C.W.A. 0301/18, D.D.I.C. 0337/18)
1216	By D.F. between 46° N., and 47°N, long 3° W. (V.A.S. 1307/18)
1015	By D.F. 59° N., 19° W., Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1132/18)
2026	By D.F. 80 to 110 miles N.W. Malin Head. Unreliable fix. (C. in C., W.A., 2139/18, 2220/18)
S.C.7.	Probably been reported by enemy submarine not same one as referred to in my 2139/18. (C. in C., W.A., 2209/18)
0930	Master of British ship ERATO lying at Lisbon harbour reports that he was hailed by fishermen returning from sea at 0930/18 and informed that there was a submarine off Bar. (Lisbon 1245/19)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: 1 off Cape Roca, Portugal at 0245/18
German : 1 still in vicinity of 45° N., 16° W
1 in about 49° to 50° N., far out probably proceeding north westwards.
1 may still be in area 51° to 52° N., 15° to 17°W.,
1 still about 180' S.W. of Rockall
1 was in 56° 32' N. 22° W., at 0800/17
1 was in 58° 41' N., 14° 03' W., at 0145/18
1 was in 58° 15' N., 21° 29' W., at 0830/18
1 in about 59° N., 19° W., at 1121/18
1 in about 58° N., 14° W at 0225/18
Possibly one nearing Shetlands homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1245/18)

By ANTELOPE — 55° 50' N., 7° 50' W., Considered wreck. Am rejoining Convoy (ANTELOPE 1830/18)

By LEITH — Escorting Convoy S.C. 7., about 2300/18 chased a U-Boat on surface and forced her to dive. LEITH and FOWEY searched vicinity (D.C.R.)

DURBO Sunk — Italian S/M DURBO after having been located by flying boat of 202 Sqdn and attacked by FIREDRAKE in 035° 57' N., 004° 00' W., surfaced and abandoned ship at 1950/18. U/B sank later. FIREDRAKE now returning to harbour with 48 survivors Captain 4 Officers and 43 men. (F.O.C.N.A. 2200/18)
My 2200/18. WRESTLER also took part in attack (F.O.C.N.A. 1108/19)

25-4

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.10.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

M.T.B. Patrol — M.T.B's last night patrolled between Smith's Knoll light float and 56 buoy.

Attack on Tromso. Operation D.H.U. — BERWICK reports that Operation D.H.U. was successfully carried out early on the morning of 16/10.

FAME — It now appears that FAME has broken her back.

U-Boat Campaign

Convoy S.C. 7. 13 Ships Torpedoed — At least 13 ships of Convoy S.C.7. were torpedoed in the Western Approaches during 18.10 and 19.10. Among them was the Commodore's ship ASSYRIAN, the Commodore (Vice Adm. Mackinnon) being taken on board LEITH in a critical condition.

Convoy H.X.79. 12 Ships Torpedoed — 12 ships of Convoy H.X. 79 were also torpedoed from about 2125/19 to 0630/20, 250 miles W.N.W. of Bloody Foreland.

In view of U-Boats disregard of escorts other than destroyers WHITEHALL, VANSITTART and WITHERINGTON are to rejoin the Western Approached Command now.

British Air Activity

Operations by Coastal Command and many of those projected for Bomber Command last night were cancelled.

Bomber Command attacked BISMARCK and docks at Hamburg, but results were not observed. Docks at Kiel, Emden and Lubeck were also attacked.

Enemy Air Activity

Cork Light Vessel reported being attacked at 2030 by fighter dive bomber which dropped two bombs harmlessly.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.10.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

VENETIA was sunk by a mine this morning off East Knob L.V.

VELIA (H.M.Trawler) was sunk, presumably by a mine, in the Thames Approaches.

Mines were found today off the Isle of Wight and on the Tyne.

Operations against Vichy French

INDO CHINOIS (intercepted by CORNWALL 18/10) attempted to scuttle herself on orders from the Vichy Government when being boarded this morning. The attempt was frustrated by CORNWALL's boarding party and 4 rounds of pom pom fire directed at the bridge of the French ship. INDO CHINOIS is being taken to Freetown, where C. in C., S.A., ordered her to be brought on receiving information that CORNWALL had intercepted her.

Mediterranean

R.A.F. attacked Bardia today.

Last night 12 aircraft attacked shipping and docks at Benghazi. Hits were registered on a ship at Mâlo d'Italia and on nearby warehouses and main railway siding.

East Indies

SHROPSHIRE, escorting Convoy A.P.3. was bombed at 0533Z today in 15° 20' N., 41° 49' E., No damage was done.

Convoy B.N. 7. was attacked by enemy aircraft in the southern part of the Red Sea this morning. No damage was reported.

Early today 3 or 4 enemy aircraft bombed Bahrein and the mainland near Ras Tanurah, damaging an oil line and a water line.

R.A.F. today attacked Massawa, hits being made on a jetty and a group of lighters.

MOST SECRET

19.10.1940
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Far East

Air Chief Marshal Sir. R. Brooke-Popham has been appointed C. in C., Far East, for operational control of all British land and air forces in Malaya, Burma and Hong Kong. G.O.C's in those territories and also the A.O.C., Far East, will be under his command.

MOST SECRET.

19.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signals. At 0200/19. (D.C. 0207/19). At 1400/19 (D.C. 1431/19).

Nore Command Notice for Steam. No air R/C possible. Keep steam at half an hour's notice till 0900/20. (C.in C. Nore 0511/20 to C.S.18, etc.)

Rosyth Dockyard A/A Defences. Adty. 1534/16. Understand local arrangements have been made and C.in C. satisfied. (Air Ministry 0925/19 to Adty.)
Propose to move one Flight of 232 Squadron from Skitton to Turnhouse to augment defence of Rosyth. Request your views. (Air Ministry 1905/19 to Adty.)

Policy.

Northern Patrol. My 1845/4/9. As passage through Skopen and Hesto Fiords can only be made in daylight and clear weather owing to danger from mines, and as the strong tides and the prevalent bad weather cause further delay, intend that N.P. Trawlers will normally proceed to and from patrol areas after 1st November passing south of North Kona one trawler every 10 days proceeding via Thorshavn for conveyance of mails and passengers.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1113/19 to Adty.)

Patrol Vessels shooting at sight. C.in C. Portsmouth's 1303/13 and 1533/15 and C.in C. W.A. 2115/14.
Admiralty concurs with policy set forth in C.in C. Portsmouth 1303/13 so far as his command is concerned.
The above is not intended to suggest that any amendment to the present instructions of C.in C. W.A. should be made.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1240/19 to C.in C. Portsmouth)

Proposed Submarine Watch on Brest. I concur with views of V.A.S. in his 1392/S.M. 105 of 13/10 and also with C.in C. W.A. 1947/18. (C.in C. H.F. 1507/19 to Adty.).

Trials of B-Class M.L. Request you will arrange for trials of a B. Class M.L. suitably escorted in rough weather in open sea.
Object is to test suitability of Class for ocean passage before sailing 3rd M.L. flotilla.
(D.T.S.D. 1527/10 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Recognition between Ships and Aircraft. It has frequently occurred that owing to mistaken identity friendly planes and ships have attacked each other. As Germans are known to be in possession of British aircraft it is understandable that a ship, on seeing an aircraft about to carry out a deliberate attack, should open

/ fire ....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy (continued)

Recognition between Ships and Aircraft. (continued)

fire on her in spite of her friendly appearance. Although it is the duty of every officer to protect his ships against any attack every endeavour must be made to avoid risking the lives of our invaluable pilots by such mistakes. To guard against this every opportunity must be taken of encouraging pilots stationed near naval ports to visit ships and take trips to sea in them whenever possible. The question of improving the system of recognition is being investigated.
(C.in C. W.A. 1806/19 to Ships).

Ex- U.S. Destroyers.

Your 1532/17. Approved to work up BATH, CHARLESTOWN, ST ALBANS, and ST. MARYS at Plymouth. R.A.M.L. is requested to arrange for continuance of practices at Port Z A as far as possible. (A.C.N.S.H. 1959/19 to C.in C. W.A.).

Escort Force for R.A.M.L.

Your 1600/15. In view of U-boats disregard of escorts other than destroyers propose that WHITEHALL VANSITTART and WITHERINGTON be transferred to Western Approaches command now. If approved they will be based on Liverpool. (C.in C. W.A. 1951/19 to Adty.)

Your 1951/19. Approved. (A.C.N.S.H. 2200/19 to C.in C. W.A.).

Movements.

BERWICK.

Request you sail her for Clyde as soon as Aircraft, with personnel and stores, have been embarked. As by A/M. 1628/14/10, BERWICK is to cease to be a unit of H.F. on arrival at Clyde. (C.in C. H.F. 1021/19 to B.C.1.)

Orkneys.

Movements for Night 19/20. (A.C.O.S. 1531/19).
State of A/S Trawlers (A.C.O.S.1930/19).

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines to-day. (A.C.O.S.1536/19).

ESPERANCE BAY.

Sailed as by F.O.C.N.P's 1130/17.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1609/19 to Adty.)

Portsmouth.

Movements for Night 19/20. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1613/19).

BEVERLEY)
BELMONT)
BROADWAY)

My 1201/15. Expect ships to pass C about 0001.Z/23. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1651/19 to Adty.)

/ ALERT. .....

MOST SECRET.

19.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued)

ALERT. Your 1757/18. Requires docking.
(C.in C. W.A. 1707/19 to Adty.)

More. My 1550/5/7 (Invasion Operation Order P.E.)
S.O. Patrol 0, HOLDERNESS. FRANKLIN and
2 Trawlers working area Cromer to
Sheringham L.F. anchoring at night.
(C.in C. Nore 1708/19 to EGRET, etc.)

ARBUTUS Estimate pass Bell Rock 2100/19.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1924/19).

BULOLO Intend sail at 0700/20 unescorted. ETA.
Freetown 0800/1 (F.O. Belfast 2237/19 to
C. in C. S.A.).

Operations.

Operation DHU. (Tromso). Phase 1. Operation D H U successfully carried out early morning 16/10. 11 swordfish attacked oil tanks and sea plane base. Many bombs on target area and some fires started. 3 skuas attacked only ship seen. Near misses. 3 skuas failed to get in owing to low clouds. Certain amount of A.A. fire over sea plane station. Heavy barrage over town. Enemy evidently surprised. 1 skua failed to return. Crew not known to be interned in Lapland. (BERWICK 1000/19 to Adty.)

My 1131/18 Lieut. Savage informs me that during Skua attack on Tromso all lights in town were burning. No sign of fires or damage in target area. Owing to surprise obtained he thinks Swordfish could not have arrived by 0530. Short and long range A.A. fire slight and no searchlights. Only one 4000 ton ship sighted in roads. During attack one near miss observed on her starboard side other bombs not seen. One Skua appeared hit during dive, broke attack and disappeared, fate unknown. No signs of British or enemy aircraft whole period. Forced landing made in Sweden after failing to locate carrier. F.A.A. W/T code for directing fighters now compromised.
(N.A. Stockholm 1311/19).

Anti-E-boat Patrol off Smiths Knoll. Weather permitting tonight 70-foot M.T.B's to establish Patrol between Smiths Knoll Light Float and 56 Buoy after about 2000, returning Harwich at daylight. (C.in C. Nore 1240/19 to BEEHIVE).
Cancel my 1240. Weather unsuitable.
(C.in C. Nore 1743/19).

/Patrol between .....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued)

Patrol between Nieuport and Flushing.

Weather permitting tonight 60-foot M.T.B's to operate between Nieuport and Flushing. Any vessel met East of 2° 30' E. may be attacked without challenge. (C.in C. Nore 1244/19 to BEEHIVE).

Cancel my 1244. Weather unsuitable. (C.in C. Nore. 1745/19.)

Tonight VANOC VOLUNTEER WITCH patrol westwards to Portland and return. Reference A.M. 111/20 September they will cross the limiting line in the vicinity of Portland and may cross it anywhere if in pursuit of the enemy. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1423/19 to Adty.)

Any small Motor Craft sighted tonight will be hostile. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1915/19 to VANOC).

VERDUN.

Following appear to be main points of tactical interest in VERDUN's W.5. 18/10 report of encounter with E.Boats on 17/10. (WATCHMAN 1930/19 to Adty.)

M.T.B's.

2 M.T.B's are leaving Harwich now to operate near Z and 54 A. Buoy. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 2156/19 to HOLDERNESS).

Engagement with E.Boats 16/10.

VIVIEN's 0015/16 VIVIEN engaged three 'E' boats at 0015/16 in 52° 55.5 N. 2° 3.7 E. Her prompt action frustrated their attack causing three torpedoes to miss. 'E' boats retired under smoke. It is thought that one was damaged but it was not disabled. (LONDONDERRY 1334/19.)

Submarines.

O. 23.

ETA. Tay Sanctuary 0800/20. (O.23 0531/19 to N.O.I.C. Dundee).

Proposed Dispositions. C.in C. Western Approaches 1947/18.

A. I have already proposed that Channel Patrols operating from Portsmouth should be discontinued. My 1392/SM 105 of 13/10 refers.
B. The next two new construction U class are required to relieve H class at Harwich since the latter cannot stand winter weather in North Sea and are required for A/S training duties.
C. Thus at present the 2nd S/M Flotilla only is available for patrols off west coast of France. 8 S/Ms including minelayers are available. With this number 2 to 3 Submarines on patrol can be maintained.

/ D. .....

MOST SECRET.

19.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Continued)

Proposed Dispositions. (Continued)

D. Consider that owing to strong tides and configuration of coastline one S/M cannot maintain an efficient patrol off Brest. Even by day three would be necessary to provide a reasonable degree of security.
E. A patrol off Gironde and another off Lorient still appear desirable.
F. I could move TITANIA and 3 "S" Class to the Clyde for operating off French Coast. A fourth S class could be made available by taking STURGEON from Blyth and a fifth by taking SWORDFISH from Portsmouth even this would barely fulfil all requirements and would mean that there would be no British submarines operating in the North Sea except U class.
G. I suggest sending TITANIA and 3 S class to Holylock at an early date. The Transfer of this flotilla to west coast may anyway be desirable in order to meet the threat of invasion of Ireland.
H. In the meantime I suggest the 2nd S/M Flotilla provide one S/M off Lorient one off Bordeaux and when possible one off Brest. (V.A.3. 1112/19 to Adty.)

L.27)
URSULA) L. 27 in D.4. URSULA leaves Portsmouth at 1600/20 for 40° N. 6° W. and thence to Gibraltar. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1307/19 to Adty.) Route of URSULA (C.in C. Portsmouth 1447/19).

H. 43. In harbour. (C.in C. W.A. 1405/19 to Adty.)

Greenock Area. Movements. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1603/19).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0700/20. (V.A.S. 1718/19).

British Air Activity.

Nore Command. All AirPatrols cancelled owing to weather. (C.in C. Nore 0533/19 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Rosyth Area. My 0040/3. Offensive Patrol cancelled owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0944/19 to Adty.) S.A.2, except 2 Southern tracks, is notbeing flown P.M. today. (C.in C. Rosyth 1216/19 to Adty.)

S.A. 1 E. Northern track cancelled. (C.in C. Rosyth 1514/19 to Adty.).
My 1346/14. This Patrol will be flown by Hudson aircraft until further orders. (C.in C. Rosyth 1602/19. Air Escorts tomorrow. (C.in C. Rosyth 1702/19).

Lorient. 6 aircraft to attack tonight the Main Power Station of Naval Dockyard at Lorient. (Air Ministry 1530/19 to Adty.)

/ St. Eval ....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Continued).

St. Eval. Your 1801/18. Reasons for intended withdrawal of MTU from St. Eval are as follows. (R.A.N.A.S. 1037/19 to Adty.) Your 1037/19. MTU is to remain at St. Eval until further orders are given. (D.N.A.D. 1742/19 to R.A.N.A.S.)

Grumman Fighters. No. 804 Fleet Fighter Squadron at Scapa is now re-armed with 12 I.E. Grumman Fighters and appropriate reserves. Request all R.A.F. authorities concerned be informed. Squadron is retaining its Gladiators as alternative equipment until adequate supply of Colt 50 calibre ammunition for Grummans is secured. (D.N.A.D. 1631/19 to Air Ministry.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Portland. 3 Bombs dropped by one aircraft at 1750/19. All fell in water in western part of Portland Harbour. No damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1820/19 to Adty.).

Cork Light Vessel. Reports being attacked by Fighter Dive Bomber at 2030. Two Bombs missed by 100 yards. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2259/19 to Adty.)

Mining.

VENETIA. Sunk by mine 185° East Knob 3 cables. Have buoyed position. (WALPOLE 0855/19 to C.in C. Nore).
Number of survivors 84. (WALPOLE 1003/19 to C.in C. Nore)
Following information concerning loss of VENETIA has now been received.
VENETIA WALPOLE and GARTH in single line ahead speed 12 knots course 242 degrees in swept channel. VENETIA had just passed East Knob buoy when explosion occurred under engine room. Ship broke in two immediately bow and stern remaining afloat for a short time. WALPOLE, GARTH and BALMORAL rescued 96 survivors. A list is being prepared by executive officers of VENETIA. It is regretted that Commanding Officer is not among survivors and four other officers are also missing. (C.in C. Nore 1300/19 to Adty.)

Tyne. One ground Magnetic Mine detonated LL. in 074° North Pier Light 1½ cables at 1005/19. (P.M.S.O. North Shields 1020/19 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).
Cancel my 0122/17. (C.in C. Rosyth 1636/9 to FLEETWOOD, CURACOA).

/ VELIA .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued).

VELIA. (See also 20/10)

H.M. Trawler. Sunk in 51° 46' N. 1° 38' E. presumably having struck a Mine in about 51° 48½' N. 1° 44' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1715/19 to Adty.)

Isle of Wight.

One moored Mine German Type V swept and sunk in 50° 30' 30" N. 00 50' 42" W. One Mine, same type, moored but showing in 50° 28' 50" N. 0° 49' 12" W. being dealt with by VERNON Mine Recovery Party. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1721/19 to Adty.)

ARIDITY. (See also 20/10).

Motor vessel ARIDITY damaged by mine explosion in vicinity. East Oaze L.V. subsequently sank in approximate position 152 Nore L.V. 1 point 7 miles. All crew reported taken off by S.S. SEDULITY proceeding to Greenhithe.
(C.in C. Nore 2101/19 to Adty.)

S.S. ARIDITY after mining 400 ft. E.N.E. of East Oaze Light Vessel was towed by DANIEL M. to anchorage on Cant Edge, where she was abandoned in a sinking condition. There were no casualties and all crew were transferred to S.S. SEDULITY which vessel returned to London and anchored for night below Boom at Nucking. Technical details. (N.C.S.O. London 1110/20).

As there is no F S convoy tomorrow sweep are to meet HOLDERNESS, CATTISTOCK and VESPER 5 miles north of Z at 0700 and sweep themselves through to Sule Skerry. If mines are found F N is to be swept through. (C.in C. Nore 2139/19 to N.O.I.C. Harwich).

Town Class M/L Destroyers.

Four town class destroyers allocated to 1st minelaying squadron will not have completed working up on arrival at Port ZA. Will it be possible for them to carry out A/S practices at Tobermory for short periods between escort duties.
N.A.M.L. 2201/19 to WESTERN ISLES).

Enemy Intelligence.

A/S Trawler at Fejeosen.

Met suspected A/S Trawler at Fejeosen and to North. (O.23. 0531/19 to N.O.I.C.Dundee)

Enemy Units off S. Foreland.

Special Intelligence indicates two units operating in the vicinity of South Foreland between 0716 and 0741 today. No other indication of their position was received. Are you already receiving this information from South Foreland? (D.D.I.C. 1211/19 to V.A. Dover).

/ Your 1211 .....

MOST SECRET.

19.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Continued).

Your 1211. Yes. Indications were that Units were not operating near South Foreland as reception was very weak. (V.A. Dover 1612/19 to Adty.)

Vardo. Finnish s.s. IMMO RAGNAR stopped by German armed trawler late p.m. 17/10 and ordered to proceed to Vardo but released after 5 hours. Master destroyed by fire confidential documents before being stopped. No other warship seen at Vardo.
(Petsamo 1617/19 to D.N.I.)

E.Boats off Lowestoft. 2 Enemy Motor Boats in 162° Lowestoft 20 miles. (BASSET 2058/19 to Harwich W/T.) Indications are that E.Boats may now be off Yarmouth and possibly following Convoys.
(C.in C. Nore 2348/19 to HOLDERNESS, EGRET, BLACK SWAN, WINCHESTER, WOOLSTON).

Technical.

German Incendiary Bombs. Some are fitted to explode 3 to 5 minutes after beginning to burn. Explosive effect not great and a wet blanket will protect against it. (D.U.B.D. 1312/19: A Message 484 A.)

Investigate and report by N.O.I.C. Faroes' 2300/18 was addressed to Admiralty only.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1756/19 to A.C.O.S.)

MOST SECRET

19.10.1940
Saturday

War Diary

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

JOHILLA — Norwegian, 4042 tons. Due Cape Town 14/10. from Methil. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town 0945/B/19 to Adty.)

ALTHENA — Dutch, 4930 tons. Due Durban 15/10 from Karachi. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town 0945B/19 to Adty.)

MALOJA — My 1430/18. Sailing cancelled owing to Engine Room defect. (F.O.C.N.P. 1252/19 to Admty.)

FAME
ASHANTI — After further inspection it appears that FAME has broken her back. ASHANTI will require to be lightened all that is possible as she is very firmly aground amidships. Am arranging for aerial railway to be constructed to salve heavy weights. Heavy swell and restricted hours of work make operations difficult. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1545/19 to C. in C., H.F.)

IRIS — N.C.S. Tug CERVIA was in collision with SS IRIS (Dutch) at 1810/19. Slight damage to IRIS ship sailed a.m./20th.
(N.O.i/c Methil 1004/21)

MOST SECRET

19.10.1940
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	**Shipping**
S.C. 7.	2 A/S trawlers to escort (C. in C., W.A., 0803/19)
S.C. 8.	When escort leaves MARGAREE to proceed Halifax. (C. in C., W.A., 1603/19)
O.A. 232	ALYNBANK to give A/A cover. Escort WESTON (C. in C., H.F., 1234/19) Sail Methil,0630/20 (C. in C., Rosyth 1924/19)
E.N. 11	Submarine H.34 Clyde for Rothesay (A.C.O.S. 1652/19)
O.A. 231	Position (A.C.O.S., 1531/19)
O.B. 231	Sailed 19/10, 16 ships. Escort WANDERER, CASTLETON, PACATEE, ERICA.(N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1831/19)
H.G. 45	Meet (C. in C., W.A., 2020/19 to ANTELOPE, FLEETWOOD, MALLOW, GLEANER)
S.L. 50	Meet (C. in C., W.A., 1910/19 to CLARE, CLEMATIS, ANENOME)
F.N. & F.S.	Forecast of sailing and escorts. (C. in C., Rosyth 1919/19)
Routes	All merchant ships sailed for United Kingdom in convoy are to be provided with routes to Belfast, Oban, Clyde, Milford Haven and Barry Roads. Route to Methil is no longer required. (D.T.D. 1243/19 to N.C.S.O's)
Convoy Attacks	Re analysis of. Reply to his letter 5358/M 478 of 6/10. (D.A/S.W., to C. in C., W.A., 1937/19) Proposed to try running ocean convoys in adjacent outward and inward "lanes" each about 15 miles wide. Details. (C. in C., W.A. 1947/19)
	W.A.C.I. Section G 20/10 part III para 6. Following an attack on a convoy at night this instruction is to be modified to the extent that if contact is lost and not regained within 30 minutes escorts are to rejoin the convoy, observing the U-Boat may have escaped on the surface and may attack the convoy again, and is probably working with one or two others. (C. in C., W.A. 2001/19)

/With a view.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.10.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoy Attacks, Contd.

With a view to ensuring that signals reporting D/F fixes of U-Boats in the vicinity of a convoy are given priority in handing by the escorts of that convoy it is requested that the ship of the senior officer of the escort may always be included in the address as was done in your 1130/19. (C. in C., W.A., 2022/19)

W.A.C.I. Section G parts IX to XI. Reports appear to indicate that if the only evidence of attack is the torpedoing of ships in Convoy it will always be doubtful from which side attack has been made. Unless positive evidence other than the report of the side of the torpedo hit exists to show the direction from which the U-Boat attacked the subsequent search should be made on both sides of the convoy. (C. in C., W.A., 2049/19)

Troop Convoys

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA

1500 troops embark Greenock 20/10. Request fighter protection. (C. in C., W.A., 2101/19)

CASTOR SVEADROTT

Movements (Scapa W/T 0130/19, 0132/19, N.A. Stockholm 1102/19, Scapa W/T, 1905/19, 1908/19)

Cargo Space, A.M.C'S

C. in C., S.A. 1241/2/9. Propose available cargo space be placed at disposal of Elder Dempster Lines. (D. of S.T., 1226/19)

Firing on Submarines

Your 1146/4/6. re opening fire on submarines In view of reports surface raiders firing on merchant ships aerials warning also misuse British uniforms etc., suggest amendment be considered. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1309/19 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.10.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Libreville. Free French plans for attack on. (F.O.C. I.C.S. 0145/19).

Force H. Ships have been maintained at one hours notice since receipt of Admiralty's 1926/17. In the interests of maintenance it is desirable to extend this notice as soon as circumstances permit. (S.O. Force H. 0850/19)

Exchange of Prisoners. R.A.F. personnel detailed in your M.146 15/10, included in preliminary negotiations of N.A. with French colleague. (A.A. Madrid to 200 Group Gib. 0900/19).

Straits Patrol. Your 1420/13. You should act in accordance with Adty. 0202/8/10 and 0253/22/9. (Hd. of M. to F.O.C.N.A. 1148/19).

STRASBOURG. My 1856/17. If no further information received of this movement by 1400/19 cancel my 1926/17. (D.O.D.(F) 1323/19).

DRAGON. Intend DRAGON shall proceed a.m./20 to patrol between positions 50 miles on a line 230° from Cape Saint Anne. Object interception of Vichy French Merchant shipping.
(C.in C. S.A. 1901N/19)

Exchange of Prisoners. French on instructions from French Admiralty states as follows:-
By agreement between British Government and French Consul London regarding exchange of about 100 British sailors detained in North Africa against French sailors in England, steamer MASSILIA should sail from Casablanca to fetch French sailors. German armistice commission has authorised voyage. British Government has asked that same ship should repatriate British, but Germans will not give sufficient guarantees for this. French Admiralty therefore proposes to transport British from Casablanca to Lisbon in French trawler VICTORIA and are asking for necessary German guarantee. French Admiralty requests through me necessary route instructions for MASSILIA.
(N.A. Madrid 1235/19).

MOST SECRET.

19.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

H.M.G. have decided that French escorted convoys will no longer be immune from contraband control in the Gibraltar Straits.

Authority to interfere with escorted French convoys to be used with discretion. Date of stopping first convoy is at your discretion, but should if possible be by the middle of week commencing 21/10. Ships in escorted convoys to be taken into Gibraltar. Escorting warships are not to be taken into Gibraltar but should be allowed to proceed if they do not try to prevent merchant ships being taken into Gibraltar. If warships resist, force may be used.

North Atlantic.

Troopships.

Re misleading enemy as reports arrival of Marine Brigade. (Govr. Gib. 0918/19 to W.O.)

Attack on Submarine DURBO.

My 2200/18. WRESTLER also took part in attack. (F.O.C.N.A. 1108/19). Information obtained from Italian U/B sunk last night indicates submarine LAFOLE is operating in area off Cape Tres Forcas. Destroyers of Eastern Patrol ordered to hunt. (F.O.C.N.A. 1256/19.

Your 2246/18.
It is not desired to realease this news for at least 14 days.
Local rumours of Italian prisoners being in Gibraltar should not be confirmed.
You will be informed if and when news is released eventually.
(V.A.S. 2311/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

KELT.

To fuel Lagos and return to patrol 24/10. (F.O.I.C.S. 0315/19. DELHI 0829/19)

French Motor Vessels.

It can be expected French Merchant Ships will attempt to scuttle if they think they will be captured or are taken to British ports. (C.in C. S.A. 1125/19).

MOST SECRET.

19.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (Contd.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN. — My 1345Z/15. Initial tests on boilers unsatisfactory. Completion delayed until 24/10. (ROYAL SOVEREIGN 1125/19).

Dakar. — Master KORSHOLM arrived Freetown from Dakar 13/10 reports arrival Dakar about 30/9 of 2 French destroyers, numbers A.54 and A.84 and 10/10 2 small submarines. (S.O. I. Freetown 1302/19).

W.S.3. — DORSETSHIRE to escort W.S.3. Fast to Capetown and onward to Aden. (C.in C. S.A. 1331N/19).

INDOCHINOIS Intercepted. — S.O.(I) Freetown's 1002/17. INDOCHINOIS was intercepted at 1941/18 by CORNWALL in position (? 005°) 40'N., 013° 35'W. As ship was stopped to board at 0537/19 attempt was made to scuttle, this was prevented ref. CORNWALL's 0941/19. CORNWALL and INDOCHINOIS with armed guard on board have now arrived Freetown. (C.in C. S.A. 1659N/19).

Mediterranean.

KENT. — Anticipated date of sailing. Might be employed as convoy escort while on passage to U.K. (C.in C. Med. 1123/19).

Operation. — Observations on Adty. 0203/18 and C.in C. Med. 1447/18. Orders to ARGUS for exercise of transports onpassage are being forwarded to Adty. by Sunderland leaving about 22/10. (S.O. Force H. 1306/19).

Air Operations. — (Not naval) (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1334/19)

Operation B.8. — Orders to PANDORA. (Capt. S.1. 1431/19).

MOST SECRET.

19.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

"Uniform"

Operation Uniform or Collar.
Essential that equipment accompanying personnel embarked in H.M. ships be restricted to minimum for passage from Gibraltar. Request special precautions be taken to avoid disclosure of destination by marking of stores and by personnel ex PASTEUR while at Gibraltar.
(S.O. Force H. 2104/19).

Convoys
M.W.3.
M.E.3.

Anticipated ships to be included.
TERROR and CORNWALL must remain at Malta till later opportunity.
(C.in C. Med. 1307/19).

East Indies.

SHROPSHIRE
Bombed.

SHROPSHIRE escorting A.P.3 bombed in 15° 20'N., 41° 49'E. at 0533Z/19.
Four bombs, no damage. (C.in C. E.I. 0616Z/19).

Transports.

Re supplies water for 3 ships in Adt. 1633/16. (S.S. & C India, 1234Z/19).

Bahrein
Bombed.

Bahrein bombed at 0015Z/19. No details.
(C.in C. E.I. 0216Z/19).
3 or 4 aircraft. One parachute flare, 6 bombs. No damage or casualties yet reported. (A.H.Q. Iraq. 0905/19)
Now reported 35 to 40 bombs and 2 parachut flares. Bombs appear 100lb. Arabian Oil Co. at Jabal Dhahran, Ondandi, Arabia Coast, also reported bombed at 0001. G.M.T /19, 7 bombs 1 oil and 1 troop pipe damaged. No information yet from oil fields at Ras Tanurah.
(A.H.Q. Iraq, 1535/19).

My 0216/19. About 3 unidentified aircraft dropped about 50 one hundred pound bombs near oil refineries Bahrein. No damage or casualties. Further 10 bombs dropped on Al Khobar Casoc Head-quarters on mainland 026° 17' 30'N., 050° 14'E. No casualties one oil and one waterline damaged.
(C.in C. E.I. 1414Z/19).

MOST SECRET.

19.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

YIANNIS. My 1403B/10. YIANNIS replied she was unable to sail without authority of French Admiralty. Further information will be passed as soon as received. (S.O.ICapetown 1805B/10 to C.in C. E.I.)

B.N.7. Sailing telegram, Aden Section. (N.C.S.O. Aden. 0552Z/19).

B.N.8. Date of leaving Bombay and route. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 0906/19).

China.

Shipping Limits. Adty. 1159/14. Northern limit of Hong Kong adopted but intend to retain 4,000 tons upper limitas reduction might prejudice evacuation of Shanghai and Northern ports. (C.in C. China 0237Z/19 to Adty).

Tactical appreciation. My 0743Z/9. Six copies of tactical appreciation Nos. 1 to 6 being sent to Adty 21/10 by safe hand air mail via Durban. (C.in C. China. 0253Z/19).

River craft withdrawal. Am making arrangements to withdraw from Shanghai and Teintsin to Hong Kong and Singapore a number of river craft and small tankers which are laid up. Consider cost of preparing these vessels for passage and of voyage should be borne by Government but there-after that owners should remain responsible for upkeep if not required for naval service. Anticipate however that certain of these vessels will be so required. (C.in C. China. 0317Z/19 to Adty).

Indo-China Trade. My 0825/18. Indo China decree dated 5/10 allows export of sundry goods including timber some minerals and rice except to British ports. Consul General Saigon has enquired whether permits for export of gunny bags Calcutta to Indo China suspended or likely to be as consignment expected shortly for rice shipments to Japan. It is for consideration whether coal and other permits should now be suspended in order to induce Indo China to adopt more

/favourable

MOST SECRET.

19.10.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Indo-China Trade. favourable attitude towards British trade.
(C.in C. China. 0401Z/19 to Adty.)

French Evacuees. Your 0547/1. Would facilities be available to send men to South Africa if we could arrange for them to be sent on from there to Lisbon by a Portuguese line. Contact with de Gaulle agents E. Brizay c/o Brizay Couser Ltd. P.O. Box. 66 Singapore with a view to his approaching the unwilling men to change their mind.
(Hd. of M. 1149/19 to C.in C. China).

New C.in C. Far East. Air Chief Marshall Sir R. Brooke- Popham appointed C.in C. Far East, responsible to Chiefs of Staff for operational control and general direction of training of all British land and air forces in Malaya, Burma and Hong Kong. Details of his directions. (Hd. of M. to C.in C. China 2329/19).

America and West Indies.

BUXTON. Your 0114/19 (case of diptheria on board) Proposal to retain BUXTON approved. Ship is not to be sailed singly.
(F.O.3 B.S. 1121/19).

Whaling Fleet. My 1512/18. Decided to route ships separately sailing today. (S.N.O. Curacao 1152/19).

U.S. Course. Your 0952/11. Navy Dept: can arrange 2 weeks course at Belleview Expl. Stn. Washington, followed by week at A/S School San Diego. (N.O. Washington to Adty 1010/1

BOUGAINVILLE. French, due San Francisco 26/10. Agent enquiring if ship permitted to return to French Indo-China on completion of loading Estimated sailing 6/11. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1254/19 to C.in C. China).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.10.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

Dutch Shipping

Messages from Rotterdam signed Halcyonlyn are being received by Netherlands ships through agent in U.S.A. 2 such already reported forwarded by Winchester, 64 Broad St. New York. These telegrams order Master to remain in neutral ports. Netherlands Minister in Ottawa in Ottawa informed. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1316/19 to Admty)

JEANNE D'ARC BEARN

Your 2203/18. Reporting officer San Juan reports (A one) French cruiser JEANNE D'ARC and French aircraft carrier BEARN left Martinique afternoon 18/10. (S.O.I. Kingston 1845/19 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

Whale Ships

S.N.O. Curacao's 1512/18. Presume Admiralty will direct route of whaling Fleet. If Whale Catchers are able to proceed South independently suggest Factory Ships should go by Pacific route for security. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1541/19 to Admty)

LAURENT MEEUS

Re Ottawa's 0927/18 re Belgian Tanker LAURENT MEEUS. This vessel is possibly employed on fuelling a raider. On a previous occasion she left Los Angeles on 6/8 for Kobe and returned on 30/9, but was not reported as having ever reached Japan. (D.E.W.D. 2215/19 to C. in C., A.W.I)

U.S. Mission

American Naval Mission has asked for a set of recognition charts, films and models as used for training Naval personnel in aircraft recognition. Have you any objection to release for this purpose of the charts of British Fighters, Bombers, Coastal and Naval aircraft prepared by the Air Ministry? (D.T.S.D. 1905/19 to Air Ministry)

U.S. 8. CANBERRA

My 0829Z/18. In view of C. in C., East Indies 0732Z/18 to N.Z.N.B. and Admiralty only, intend U.S. 8 should not sail from Sydney before (date).
Arrangements will therefore be made for fitting out MAURETANIA. (A.C.N.B. 0132/19 to Admty.)
Your 0732Z/18. Concur voth proposals. H.M.A.S. CANBERRA will be required for escort of U.S. 8. from about vicinity Cocos Is. see Australian Commenwealth Naval Board 0132Z/19. (A.C.N.B. 0355/19 to C. in C., E.I.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.10.1940
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CORDELIA — Arrived with grain from Russia. (Macrae, Bucharest, 1129/19)

MADRID — Diver clearing bottom. (Consul, Las Palmas 1245/19)

MOST SECRET

19.10.1940
Saturday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

Convoy S.C. 7.

Send one destroyer to assistance of Convoy S.C.7. position 0003/19 057° 10' N., 010° 38' W., course 130 speed 7 knots. 0113/19.

S.C.7. Have rounded up 8 ships 4 for Clyde 3 for Barry Road 1 for Mersey. Estimate 10 ships torpedoed. Estimated position 056° 06' N., 009° 10' W., course and speed 115° 7½ knots, no other escort in company. (FOWEY, 1001/19, to C. in C., W.A.)

Have found no further trace of convoy or disabled ship am sweeping to south east course 138° 15 knots. (SKATE 1504/19 to C. in C., W.A., and LEITH)

13 Ships Attacked

Convoy S.C.7. has suffered at least 13 ships sunk or damaged since 16/10. Position of the rest of the convoy is still obscure, but it is known that FOWEY in Irish Sea has 8 ships in company. (D.O.R. 20/10)

CLINTONIA (S.C.7.)

Believed torpedoed and sunk in S.C.7. 19/10 (D.O.R. 22/10)

BLAIRSPEY (S.C.7.)

BLAIRSPEY, British 4155 tons torpedoed at 0030 in position 056° 58' N., 011° 04' W., Capable of 6 knots. Have detailed FOWEY to search vicinity herself. Am endeavouring to rejoin convoy. (LEITH 0126/19) (see BLUEBELL, 0825/19)

EMPIRE MINIVER GUNBORG NIRITOS (S.C.7.)

Have on board Captain and 34 crew British ship EMPIRE MINIVER. Captain and 22 crew Swedish steamer GUNBORG. Captain and 13 crew Greek Steamer NIRITOS. Standing by for further survivors until relieved at daylight. (BLUEBELL 0315/19)

MANCHESTER PRODUCER (S.C. 7.)

Have on board Captain and crew of 18 of BLAIRSPEY, Captain and crew of 36 of MANCHESTER PRODUCER. Have now on board 203 survivors. Am rejoining convoy. (BLUEBELL 0825/19)

/ASSYRIAN.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

ASSYRIAN EMPIRE BRIGADE SOESTERBERG (S.C.7.)	At 0300 picked up survivors ASSYRIAN (Commodores ship) EMPIRE BRIGADE and SOESTERBERG in position 057° 12' N., 010° 43' W., Commodore is on board in critical condition. Have not found any other ships of convoy. Am joining FOWEY. Noon position course and speed 056° 36' N., 008° 52' W., 147° 14 knots. LEITHER 1234/19)
BLAIRSPEY 1 other	Following received:- 2 abandoned timber ships BLAIRSPEY and one unknown in position 057° 22' N., 011° 22' W., impossible connect up, sea scale 7 (very high sea) Remaining in vicinity until weather moderates, 14 survivors on board other lifeboats adrift 1800/19 (ends) (F.O.I.C., Greenock 2050/19)
CARSBRECK (S.C.7.)	Hove to position 056° 02' N., 007° 55' W., owing to CARSBRECK being unable to steer in heavy easterly gale. Must wait for weather moderate before proceeding. Rescue tug SCHELDE not yet arrived. (HEARTSEASE 1939/19)
KABALO	Informed that U-Boat landed 26 survivors from torpedoed KABALO at Santa Maria Island 0700/19. No further details available here. (Consul, Ponta Delgada, 1542/19)
UGANDA (Convoy HX 79	(British 4966 tons) Ship torpedoed in position 056° 37' N., 017° 15' W., (WHITEHALL 2125/19)
	My 2125/19. UGANDA torpedoed still afloat. One other ship torpedoed and sunk. JASON standing by. (WHITEHALL, 2305/19)
2 Ships	Tanker torpedoed in position 056° 41' N., 017° 08' W., and one other in position 056° 41' N., 016° 49 W., Suspect two U-Boats. (WHITEHALL 2335/19)
	Steamer torpedoed in 56.38 N., 16.51 W., (STURDY, 2240/19)
LOCH LOMAND (H.X. 79)	(British, 5452 tons) Torpedoed in convoy H.X. 79 between 2125/19 and 0100/20 (D.S. 411)

/MATHERAN.....

MOST SECRET

19.10.1940
Saturday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

MATHERAN (H.X. 79)	(British 7653 tons) Torpedoed in Convoy H.X. 79 between 2125/19 and 0100/20. (D.S. 411)
H.X. 79 11 Ships Attacked	Convoy H.X. 79 was attacked in position 250 miles W.N.W. Bloody Foreland at 2125/19. Between this time and 0100/20, 11 ships were reported sunk or damaged. (D.O.R., 20/10)
TRITON (H.X. 79)	(D.O.R. 22/10)
SHIRAK (H.X. 79)	(British 6023 tons) (D.O.R. 22/10)

Submarines Reported

1014	D.F. probable U-Boat unreliable fix 57° N., 22° W., (D.D.I.C. 1130/19, 1144/19)
1936	56° - 57° N., 17°-20° W., (C. in C., W.A., 2021/19)
2131	56°- 57° N., 14°-16° W., (C. in C., W.A., 2213/19)
2125	A.F. message 56.37 N., 17.15 W., at 2025/19 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2234/19)
2346	A.F. message 58°-59° N., 18°-20° W., at 2246 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0101/20, 0112/20)
Off Lorient	Patrol S.A. 12 A modified as stated in CC/G2/16/10 is to be flown daily until further orders. U-Boats may be expected to cross this patrol later each day according to the time of high water at Lorient. (Air Min. 1912/19, to Admty)

Submarines Attacked

DURBO Sunk, 18/10.	Further operations against Italian U-Boat (See North Atlantic)

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.10.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Destroyer Patrol — Three destroyers last night patrolled westwards from Portsmouth to Portland.

Submarine for Mediterranean — URSULA left Portsmouth p.m. today to join the Mediterranean Fleet.

British Air Activity

Owing to adverse weather conditions operations last night were very much restricte

Enemy Air Activity

Damage was caused in the London Dock area last night.

Operations Against Vichy French

H.M.G. have decided that French escorted convoys will no longer be immune from contraband conrol in the Straits of Gibraltar. Force is to be used if warships resist the diversion of ships escorted into Gibraltar.

/F.O.C.N.A.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.10.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

F.O.C.N.A. reports that it is extremely unlikely that any interception can take place unless Spanish or French territorial waters are to be infringed.

DRAGON left Freetown today to patrol off Cape St. Anne, to intercept Vichy French traffic.

CORNWALL left Freetown for the Clyde this evening.

Mediterranean

3 Bombays attacked Tobruk last night.

Air Ministry report today that on night of 17/10 5 Bombays attacked shipping at Benghazi. One merchant ship was hit and bombs straddled a large warship and three destroyers alongside Molo d'Italia.

Italian S/M Sunk

GALLANT and HOTSPUR today sank the Italian submarine LAFOLE to the eastward of Gibraltar.

East Indies

LEANDER escorting Convoy B.N. 7. reports being bombed this morning in the southern part of the Red Sea. No damage is reported.

Aden was unsuccessfully bombed today.

R.A.F. today attacked Diredawa.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.10.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Convoys and Escorts in N.W.Approaches — C. in C., W.A., to attend meeting to be held by P.M. 21/10 (V.C.N.S. 1436/20)

Defence of U.K.

Rosyth — Defence of. Re A.M. 0925/19. F.C. did not appreciate importance of adequate defence of Rosyth both as Fleet Base and for a dockyard for docking important units of Fleet (C. in C., Rosyth 1100/20) A.M. propose to move the one flight of 232 Sqdn. from Skilton to Turnhouse. Request your views. (D. of L.D. 1411/20 to C. in C., H.F., C. in C., Rosyth) Reply to 1411/20: inadvisable (C. in C., H.F. 1907/20)

Deluge — At 0200/20 (D.C. 0201/20) At 1400/21 (D.C. 1449/20, 1958/20)

Movements

JASON — Am proceeding in accordance with C. in C., W.A., 0921/20. E.T.A. 1315/ (JASON 1050/20)

GLASGOW — Sailing postponed. Humber mined. (F.O.Humber 2138/20)

Operations

M.T.B Patrol — 2 M.T.B's will patrol between Smith's Knoll and 56 Buoy tonight Sunday. They have been told to keep clear of convoys. (C. in C., Nore, 1049/20 to WESTMINSTER, WALLACE, WOLSEY LOWESTOFT.

Enemy off Prawle Pt. — Despatch one Sunderland forthwith to search for and send sighting report of suspected enemy surface craft reported by D/T in position 180° Prawle Pt. 6 miles at 1200/20. Destroyers proceeding from Plymouth JAGUAR, KASHMIR and BLYSKAWICA. After sighting report has been sent enemy may be attacked. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth, 1225/20)

Patrol between Eddystone and Wolf Rock keeping about 20 miles from land. Return to Plymouth by 0830/21. Look out for 3 M.G.B's returning Fowey. (C. in C., W.A., 1626/20 to KASHMIR, JAGUAR, BLYSKAWICA.

/Dover .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.10.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

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/Dover .....

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Dover Shelled Trawler Attacked by Aircraft

45 shells fell in Dover area between 1107 and 1308 to-day. Ten fell in in town, 12 in harbour and 23 outside. No damage to naval property or personnel. Trawler O.K.U. machine gunned near number one buoy by one enemy aircraft at 1220. One officer wounded (V.A.Dover, 1814/20)

E-Boat off East Anglia

One enemy War Motor Boat position 52° 8' N., 1° 56' E., (GUILLEMONT 2257/20)
My 2157 unidentified fast craft steering 020 lost touch. (GUILLEMONT 2204/20)

Nore

Patrols tonight (C. in C., Nore 0948/20)

Submarines

0 24

Proceed to patrol position (Capt. S. 9. 0751/20)

027

Leave patrol 0200/22 (Capt S. 5. 1013/20)

URSULA

Route orders amended (C. in C., Portsmouth 1043/20, Capt S. 5. 1313/20)

TIGRIS Attacked by Trawler

V.A. (S) reports at 0155/16. in 45° 44' N., 3° 45' W., darkened trawler tried to ram TIGRIS but was repulsed by gunfire and perhaps sunk range 20 yards. (V.A.S. 1051/20)

British Air Activity

Bombing Restrictions

for sailing of URSULA asked for (S. 5. 1315/20)

Rosyth Air Defence

C. in C., Rosyth 1100/20, D. of L.D. 1411/20
C. in C., H.F., 1907/20. See Defence of U.K.

/Enemy Air.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.10.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Chatham — Very slight damage in air raid about 1120/20 etails (Suptg. C.E. 1335/20)

Yarmouth — Parachute bombs dropped near Docking this evening. (Hunstanton) (C.G.Yarmouth 2230/20) Parachute bomb was destroyed at 1430/21. (C.G.Yarmouth 1935/21)

SS. ROTA — Attacked 1340 3 miles S.S.W. of Copinsay by unidentified aircraft with short bursts of machine gun fire. No damage or casualties. (A.C.O.S. 2330/20)

CONAKRIAN (O.A. 232) — CONAKRIAN, British, 4876 tons, in Convoy O.A. 232. Torpedoed 310° 9 miles Girdleness. (Wick Radio, 1840/20) Torpedoed at 1942/20. 2 drifters from aberdeen and ug from Peterhead proceeding. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2010/20) Position 134° Girdleness 8'. Engine damaged. Requirs towing, otherwise all right. Am standing by. (CLEVELAND, 2120/20) Your 2010. Have picked up 29 of crew. Some stayed in ship. Lifeboat, aberdeen, standing by. Am proceeding. (CLEVELAND, 2325/20)

Cdr. Meek R.N.R. Commodore of O.A. 232 on board S/S CONAKRIAN now anchored off Aberdeen awaiting possible entrance to dock tomorrow morning reports:-

At 1835 B.S.T. 20/10 in position Girdleness 310° 9 miles, two unidentified aircraft approached from east, one flew height about 200 ft. across leading ships, other turned South and flew about 200 ft down the line.

When 1st aircraft was in position over inside leading ship dull detonation was felt in CONAKRIAN and heavy shock followed by smoke and steam to height of 50 ft. starboard side amidships. Aircraft showed no lights.

Damage:- (details) No other known casulaties All naval personnel accounted for. On board CONAKRIAN 15 and 2 naval ratings. Escort believed CLEVELAND reports picked up 29 including 2 naval ratings.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 2114/21)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.10.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Hartlepool — Two Red mines detonated by LL trawlers in 54 39 56 N., 01 06 42 W., at 0912 ports remaining open. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1015/20)

Harwich — Land guard reports 6 heavy explosions in quick succession very distant to the eatwards at 1100/20. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1101/20)

Sweeping of East Coast Shipping Channels — Most likely time for E-Boats to mine the south part of the east coast shipping channels is during the period from three hours after dark till three hours before daylight on any night when weather conditions enable them to maintain a high speed. Sweeping the starboard side of the channel in the same direction as the convoy proceeds and a short time before it passes, appears to be the best protection against mines that the convoy can be given with our existing facilities. Arrangements for trials to be undertaken. (C. in C., Nore, 1206/20 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth)

HOPPER No 2. Damaged 13/10 — N.O.I.C Hartlepool's 1043/13 as follows:- At 0836/13 when approx. one cable West of Datum Buoy Cargo Fleet Steamer HOPPER 2 sustained damage from mine explosion extent of damage not yet available but engine room partially flooded and bridge sustained some damage. HOPPER in tow of 2 tugs is entering Tees. No casualties. HOPPER was wiped 30/9 (F.O.I.C.Tyne 1624/20)

Aberdeen — Enemy seaplane suspected laying mines position 057° 00' N., 001° 45' W., (ALYNBANK 1900/20)

VELIA (Mined 19/10) Harwich. — Skipper reports VELIA mined yesterday, was weighing anchor, mine mooring wire hooked over fluke of anchor and mine probably exploded on bottom. He thinks mine may have been an old one previously sunk. Today paddlesweepers detonated one mine in position 51° 49' N., 01° 43 E., and cut two mines German 'X' star type in position 51° 47' N., 01° 42' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2012/20)

Humber — Humber closed to navigation owing to mines. (F.O.Humber 2137/20)

GLASGOW — GLASGOW sailing postponed, Humber mined. (F.O.Humber 2138/20)

/ARIDITY.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.10.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

ARIDITY
(Mined 19/10)

Have report from Master of E OASE L/V giving exact position vessel when mined. L/V was swung on to the flood. Position of ARIDITY at time of explosion (1340) was bearing N.E. 40 yards distant from L/V. Master of L/V described a large explosion and oil and mud were thrown up some of which splashed about L/V. (N.C.S.O. Thames,2358/20)

Enemy Intelligence

Raider Report
BRITISH LADY
MARLYN

56.53 N., 26.20 W., BRITISH LADY reports being followed by mysterious ship. (Valentia Radio, 0935/20, corrected 1105/20) LAURENTIC and PATROCLUS to investigate raider report (C. in C., W.A., 1223/20) Raider signal cancelled (C. in C., W.A., 2359/20) From MARLYN my 0935/20 Cancelled (Valentia Radio 1941)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.10.1940
Sunday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

CARADOC — See A.& W.I.

FOXHOUND — Admty. 2040/16. Earliest date FOXHOUND is expected to be ready 24/10. Some difficulty is being experienced with trails. (C. in C., Nore, 1224/20)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.10.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
H.X. 79	SHIKARI and SARDONYX to join forthwith. (C. in C., W.A., 1223/20) Raider report (see Operations) subsequently cancelled.
O.A. 232	26 ships. Escort WESTON CAMPANULA PEONY additional to Scapa, ALYNBANK (N.C.S.O. Methil 0855/20)
SVEADROTT CASTOR	Position at 0001/20. (Stockholm, 1038/20)

MOST SECRET.

20.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Intercepting French Ships.

945. Your 2327/19. As explained in my 1214/7 and my 1601/5 and in S.O. Force H's letter of proceeding 73/9 of 14/10, French escorted convoys passing through Straits invariably keep either in or on the edge of Spanish territorial waters. At this moment 2 vessels escorted by a destroyer are passing through to Eastwards keeping close into Morocco Shore. Experience has shown that they do not leave these waters so long as they are kept under the observation of our patrol and they can in fact continue in these waters all the way to Oran or Casablanca. Unless therefore Spanish territorial waters are to be infringed or French territorial waters are to be entered, it is extremely unlikely any interception can take place. Although therefore under these conditions it is unlikely incident will arise, I submit strongly that everything should bedone to avoid any possibility of incident until after Italian operation "Uniform".
S.O. Force "H" concurs.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1320/20, to Adty.)

French Units.

Your 1300/16. Request following be passed to French Admiralty. British Admiralty acknowledge with gratification communication of French Admiralty concerning movements of their submarines and escorting warship. At same time they are sure that French Admiralty realise necessity for any such passages of the Straits being made during daylight. At night any darkened ship would naturally be regarded as hostile, and even were ships illuminated it would be necessary to stop and board them to ensure that this was not a ruse de guerre of the enemy.
(Hd. of M. 1440/20 to N.A. Madrid).

Defer action on my 1440/20 unless action already taken. (V.C.N.S. 2355/20).

North Atlantic.

SIQUEIRA CAMPOS.

Brazilian ship SIQUEIRA CAMPOS left Oporto 18/10 for Lisbon for orders. Very desirable to intercept on leaving Lisbon and if bound for South America to be sent in under armed guard even if holding Ship Navicert.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1753/20).

Air Patrols.
Italian U/B sunk.

Daily Summary Operations. 2 routine A.S. patrols two surface recco. patrols two aircraft co-operated with destroyers in special A.S. search in area south of 35° 40' N. between 03° 45' W. and 02° 30' W. Area covered by patrols Spartel to 01° 30'W.

/ Above A/S search

MOST SECRET.

20.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (continued)

Air Patrols Italian U/B sunk. Above A.S. search carried out as result of information obtained from Italian DURBO reported sunk in my A, 183 19/10.
1 further Italian submarine located and sunk today by destroyers during above search. 11 survivors.
(200 Group, 1737/20).

My 1258/19. Second U-Boat sunk 11 survivors. Details follow.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1758/20).

South Atlantic.

Overdue Ships. My 0945/19. JOHILLA and ALHENA arrived
(S.O.I. Capetown 1055/20).

DELHI
MILFORD
KELT. From (? C.S.1) Transfer petrol to R.F.A. LUCIGEN or to shore before sailing. Report expected time of arrival position B on 24/10 to C. S.1 repeated DELHI.
On arrival return to position B at 2 hour intervals until contact made.
(DELHI to MILFORD and KELT, 2319/20)

Mediterranean.

Air Report. Malta situation up to 1700/20. All times G.M.T.
Glen Martin of 431 Flight reported sighting at 1411, 1 cruiser and 1 destroyer in position 37° 40' N. 16° 10' E. course 120°, speed approx. 15 knots. 0741 to 0917 Swordfish of 830 Sqdn F.A.A. despatched to locate submarine reported off N.W. coast of the island returned at 0920 having failed to locate enemy. 1019, 2 enemy formations reported approaching from north, alarm given. 6 Hurricanes, 2 Gladiators up. Raid did not materialise. All clear given at 1153.
(H.Q. Malta, 1715/20).

Operations. Observations on Admty. 0205/18 and delay of departure of convoy from Gibraltar.
(C.in C. Med. 1251/20, to Admty.)

MALAYA. Admty. 1959/13. Condenser trouble. Necessary to take action as soon as BARHAM arrives. Alternative proposals.
(C.in C. Med., 1457/20).

BERWICK
GLASGOW } Can be fitted R.D.F. before leaving U.K. Asking whether type 286 should be fitted.
(A.C.N.S.(F) to C.in C. Med., 1703/20)
Reply: Request R.D.F. type 286 be fitted. Has BARHAM any form of R.D.F?
(C.in C. Med., 0033/21).

/ Enemy Report ....

MOST SECRET.

20.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Enemy Report. 1 enemy cruiser and 1 destroyer in 37.40 N., 16.10 E., at 1511 zone mines 1., course 120° speed 15 knots. (N.O.I.C. Malta, to PANDORA and PARTHIAN, 1757/20).

Your 1155/3. Following from M.E.W.

Turkish Trade. Now learn from reliable source that Turkey has given assurances to Italians that they will authorise export of Turkish goods in Italian vessels from any Turkish port to Italian ports.

Not absolutely clear whether these assurances refer to trade with Italy or to local trade with Dodecanese but latter considered probable. (D.E.W.D. 1833/20 to C.in Med.).

German U/Boats, Galatz. My 1029/16. Two (?submarines) are ready at Galatz and will be sent to Constanta others will be ready soon.
(S.O.I., Alexandria, 1610/20.)

Italian Prisoners, Exchange. Request consideration may be given to commencement of negotiations for exchange of naval prisoners of war in near East. Consider Italians returning to Italy from Egypt would be likely to refute mendacious reports put out by Italian press and radio, and so help British propaganda.
(C.in C. Med., 2133/20 to Adty.)

East Indies.

Aden Bombed. R.A.F. Operational Summary to 1200/20. Para. 3, Kenya. 15/10. 3 unidentified enemy aircraft bombed Aden, 41.30 E., 1.45 S. No damage or casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1148/20).

U.S.S.A. Leaving Colombo 1130 Z/21. CALEDON to escort, and on relief by Red Sea Force escort to proceed Aden. (C.in C. E.I. 0710 Z/20).

Convoy and LEANDER Bombed. LEANDER escorting B.N.7 reports being bombed at 0748 Z/20 position 014° 26' N. 042° 28' E., no damage reported. (C.in C. E.I. 1302 Z/20).

LEANDER and Convoy attacked by 2 destroyers at 2320 Z/20 (see 21/10).

Raid on Bahrein. Further to my A.405 19/10. Considered this flight was in nature pure propaganda and with secondary object of inducing us to disperse wide our available A.A. defences and fighter aircraft. It is possible that Bahrein was not the original objective for attack as according to our records of track made aircraft did not maintain a steady course. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1808/20).

MOST SECRET.

20.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

French Ports. — Admty. 2242/18, re allied ships resuming calls at New Caledonia and French Ports in N.Z. Station. Instructions in my 0911/13/9 were amended to agree with A.C.N.B. Melbourne's 1300/25/9 and similar changes notified by other stations. (C.in C. China 0413 Z/20).

LAURENT MEEUS. See also A.W.I. — My 2215/19. Suspicion attaches to Belgian Tanker LAURENT MEEUS, sailed Los Angeles 19/10 for Singapore with diesel oil consigned Mitsui Yokohama. Master states cargo intended for enemy and that he will receive instructions when at sea. He would be obliged if we pick him up. Vessel previously left Los Angeles 6/8 for Kobe, returning 30/9, but was not reported as having ever reached Japan. Raider which captured TROPIC SEA on 18/6 in Tasman Sea is believed to have fuelled in Pacific, and LAURENT MEEUS may be intended to meet this or anotherraider.
(D.D.I.C. 1713/20 to C.in C. China).

America and West Indies.

"Towns" Destroyers. — BURNHAM, BURWELL, BRADFORD, CHESTERFIELD, and BROADWATER sailed for U.K. 1130 G.M.T. /20. CAMERON again delayed by defective distillers. (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. 1022/20). My 1201/15. Time to pass position (C). (R.A. 3 B.S., 1846/20).

CARADOC. — My 1032/17. To leave patrol to arrive Bermuda (date). Defective turbine to be taken in hand on arrival Bermuda. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1021/20).

French Trawlers. — Sailings reported by Vice-Consul, St.Pierre rumoured bound for Casablanca. (Govr., Newfoundland, 2300/20) (C.in C. A.W.I. 1851/20).

Shipping Attacks. — Your 1143/12. Reference is presumably to D.M.S. Part 1 para. 70. It is considered that prohibition cannot be relaxed. To do so would encourage ships to run grave risk by proceeding to render assistance and being themselves attacked. (D.T.D. 1154/20 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

LAURENT MEEUS. See also China. — My 0226/18. Washington reports LAURENT MEEUS being refused clearance pending investigation Los Angeles report now doubtful that cargo is destined for enemy. Indicated Master pro-British but other ranks fear reprisals if ship is

/ voluntarily .....

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Continued)

LAURENT MEEUS
(See also China)
(continued)

voluntarily surrendered and thought Master's message requesting seizure would overcome this difficulty. Master LIPPENS telegraphed Belgian Ambassador Washington 17/10 that ship will follow route permitting constant contact with Belgium and British Authorities.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1101/19).

MOST SECRET.

20.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LA PLATA — My 1905/17. Has discharged further 60 tons steel bars. (Consul, Vigo, 1048/20).

GERMANIA — Activity on board. Preparing to leave. (Consul, Ponta del Gada, 1245/20).

(260)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.10.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

Convoy H.X. 79

My 2335/19. 4 more ships badly damaged in vicinity 56.41 N., 16.48 W., trawlers ANGLE and LADY ELSA standing by (WHITEHALL, 0035/20)
Still being attacked. One more ship sunk, one slightly damaged (WHITEHALL, 0146/20) 4 full lifeboats, 56.25 N., 16.20 W., (Aircraft, 210 Sqdn, 0819/10) D.F. bearings at 0955/10 indicate U-Boat in your vicinity and is reporting you (D.D.I.C., 1102/20 to WHITEHALL and other ships)
Lifeboat in 56.10 N., 11.37 W., 20 survivors (Aircraft 210 Sqdn., 1135/20)

UGANDA
BILDERDYK
MATERAN
(H.X. 79)

Sailing tug SEAMAN to assistance of UGANDA in 56.37 N., 17.15 W., (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0129/20)
Have on board 39 survivors from BILDERDYK 38 from UGANDA and 2 from MATERAN.
LOCH LOMOND has further survivors from MATHERAN. UGANDA still afloat at 2359 but making water and listing heavily, with 5 feet of water in engine room and stoke hold and very unlikely to last. No trawler standing by. Am rejoining convoy. (JASON, 0130/20)
Am proceeding to join ARABIS (JASON, 0318/20)

LOCH LOMOND
(H.X. 79)

Position 56° N., 15.30 W., chased by submarined (Port Patrick Radio, 0457/20)
Have reached LOCH LOMOND, torpedoed at 0630, 56.15 N., 14.50 W., (JASON, 0810/20)
My 0810. Amend position to read 56.15 N., 15.24 W. LOCH LOMOND holed aft, still afloat salvage doubtful. Have about 172 survivors on board. No ship in company, request instructions. (JASON, 1040/20)
Your 1040 rejoin convoy collecting any scattered ships. Estimated position of convoy at noon 20th was 056° 06' N., 014° 25' W., course 91°. (C. in C., W.A., 1147/20 to JASON)

H.X. 79
Ships Attacked

Your 0635/20, enquiring whether convoy was closely formed when first attack took place and whether it scattered later, and 0733/20 enquiring whether contact was made with submarine by any escorting ship. No contact was made by escort. Convoy was well closed up at first attack on starboard wing and never scattered. 35 ships in company now plus Netherlands submarine. LOCH LOMOND reported S.E. convoy. Following ships known to be torpedoed. LA ESTANCIA, SITALA, WANDBY, WHITFORD POINT, SWONA, RUPERRA, CAPRELLA, UGANDA, MATHERAN, BILDERDYK, JANUS but WANDBY, SITALA, UGANDA may still be afloat.

/Estimated.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.10.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

H.X. 79
Ships Attacked
Contd.,

Estimated position noon B.S.T+ 20/10 056° 04' N., 014° 00' W., JASON and ANDREW not yet rejoined. HIBISCUS detached to search for lifeboats, LADY ELSA proceeding to Londonderry or Belfast with survivors. 261 survivors reported so far. WHITEHALL will have to proceed Londonderry a.m./21 for fuel. ATHELMONARCH holed but keeping up. Visibility for first attack 1 mile increasing to 4 miles later. State of sea 25. (WHITEHALL 1114/20, to C. in C., W.A.,)

TRITON

My 1114/20. Add TRITON (Norwegian 6607 tons) to list of ships torpedoed or missing from convoy. (WHITEHALL, 1400/21)

Convoy S.C.7.
CARSBRECK
(Torpedoed 18/10)

Estimated position, course and speed 0800/20 55.58 N., 07.52 W., 120° 5 knots. CARSBRECK in company. (HEARTSEASE, 0730/20)
If another escort is with convoy, use your discretion as to proceeding Clyde to land survivors or to Liverpool (C. in C., W.A. to LEITH, 0923/20)

Your 0923/20. Rounded up 3 ships in position 056° 08' N., 008° 11' W., at 1430/19. One bound Belfast, two bound Clyde. Escorted them until 0400 when touch was lost to Eastward of Altacarry. Have not seen FOWEY. Am now proceeding Liverpool. Expected time of arrival Bar Light Vessel 0800/21. Present position 055° 00' N., 005° 20' W., (LEITH 1216/20, to C. in C., W.A.)

BLAIRSPEY
(Torpedoed 19/10)

Your 0130/20 to N.O.I.C. Kirkwall. Endeavour join SALVONIA standing by BLAIRSPEY and unknown ship in 57.22 N., 11.22 W., at 1800/19 awaiting moderate weather. (F.O.I.C. Greenock to St. OLAVES, 0840/20) Your 1215 SALVONIA with BLAIRSPEY in 57.18 N., 12.21 W at 1415. Proceed to her assistance. (F.O.I.C Greenock to tug St. OLAVES, 1609/20)

HURUNUI
SHEKATIKA
CONVALLARIA
BOEKELO

Only one ship in company visibility one mile Am proceeding to Clyde to land 157 survivors from HURUNUI, SHEKATIKA, CONVALLARIA BOEKELO before dark. Position 055° 27' N., 066° 25' W., speed 12 knots. (FOWEY 1000/20)

/Have sent.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.10.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked, Contd.

Have sent SOMERSBY to Clyde. My position course and speed are 055° 10' N., 055° 50' W 140° 9 visibility 1 mile. Proceeding to Liverpool. (SCARBOROUGH 1155/20)

DENPARK — British, 3491 tons. Being followed by submarine, 53.08 N., 26.20 W., (DENPARK and Valentia Radio, 1736/30)

SULACO (O.B. 229) — British, 5389 tons. Torpedoed night of 19-20/10. (D.O.R/22/10) 2325/19, 57.25 N., 25° W. Sunk (D.S., 413)

CUBANO (O.B. 229) — Norwegian, 5810 tons. Torpedoed night of 19-20/10. (D.O.R. 22/10) 2325/19, 57.25 N., 25° W., sunk. (D.S. 413)

? — Intercept. DE 95 addressed HXDI here chased by submarine about 20 miles Southwest of last attack, master, please come. 0016/20. (Valentia Radio, 0123/20)

Summary of Vessels Attacked in Convoy HX.79. 19-20/10.

BILDERDIJK	Dutch	6856	/19	39 survivors in JASON, 0130/20.
MATHERAN	British	7653	/19	Survivors in JASON & LOCHLOMAND, 0130/20.
UGANDA	British	4966	2125/19	Still afloat 2359/19 38 survivors in JASON (0130/20)
LOCH LOMAND	British	5452	/19	Holed aft, still -afloat 1040/20 JASON.
LA ESTANCIA	British	5185		Reported by WHITEHALL 1114/20.
SITALIA	British	6218		Reported by WHITEHALL May still be afloat.
WHITFORD POINT	British	5026		Reported by WHITEHALL May still be afloat.
WANDBY	British	4947		Reported by WHITEHALL May still be afloat.
RUPERRA	British	4548		Reported by WHITEHALL 1114/20.
CAPRELLA	British	8230		Reported by WHITEHALL 1114/20.
JANUS	Swedish	9965		Reported by WHITEHALL 1114/20½
ATHEL MONARCH	British	8995		Holed but keeping up (WHITEHALL, 1114/20)
TRITON	Norwegian	6607		Reported by WHITEHALL 1400/21.
SWONA	British			Reported by WHITEHALL 1114/20
SHIRAK	British	6023	2245/19	

Total, 15.

MOST SECRET

20.10.1940
Sunday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Summary of Vessels Attacked in Convoy S.C.7.
18-19/10.

SCORESBY	British	3843		Sunk
LANGUEDOC	French	9512		Abandoned
CARSBRECK	British	3670	0145/18	Damaged, hove to in gale, with HEARTSEASE.
CONVALLARIA	Swedish	1996	2020/18	
SHEKATIKIA	British	5458	2100/18	Abandoned
ASSYRIAN	British	2962	2330/18	
EMPIRE BRIGADE	British	5154	2330/18	
BLAIRSPEY	British	4155	0030/19	Abandoned. Crew rescued by BLUEBELL.
NIRITOS	Greek	3854	/19	Crew rescued by BLUEBELL
GUNBORG	Swedish	1572	/19	Crew rescued by BLUEBELL
EMPIRE MINIVER	British	6055	/19	Crew rescued by BLUEBELL
BEATUS	British	4885		Crew rescued by BLUEBELL
SOESTERBERG	Dutch	1904	/19	Survivors in LEITH
BOEKELO	Dutch	2118		Survivors in FOWEY and GREENOCK.
AENOS	Greek	3554		25 survivors landed Greenock by EAGLE CLIFFE.
CLINTONIA	British	3106	/19	
MANCHESTER PRODUCER	British			Reported by BLUEBELL 0825/19.

Total, 17.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.101.1940
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0305 — Submarine reported on surface in 56.34 N., 16.15 W., (ARABIS, 0305/20) Am proceeding to join ARABIS (JASON 0318/20)

0349 — Enemy submarine following us, position 58.52 N., 28.52 W., (Unknown ship, 0349/20) (D.D.I.C. 0647/20)

0902 — D.F., indicates there may be a U-Boat in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C., 1030/20, to ESPERANCE BAY, LAURENTIC, etc.,)

0955 — D.F. bearings indicate U-Boat still in your vicinity and reporting you. (D.D.I.C. 1102/20 to STURDY, ARABIS, WHITEHALL, etc.)

1245 — D.F., 150' to westward of Fastnet, unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1355/20)

1543 — D.F., 55.40 N., 16° W., Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1641/20)

1708 — D.F., 54.30 N., 15° to 18° W., (C. in C., W.A. 1809/20)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: No news of the one recently off Portugal.

German : No news of the one near 45° N., 16°W
Four are West of 20° W. between latitudes 53° N., and 60° N., one of which was possibly in about 59° N., 29° W., at 0349/20
One in vicinity of 56° N., 10° W. probably leaving for Lorient.
One was in about 57° 30' N.,-58° N., 16°-18°W at 1225/20.
At least two in vicinity of 56° N., 14° W one about 150' West of Fastnet at 1245/20)
(D.D.I.C. 1425/20)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.10.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

Italian U-Boat Sunk — See North Atlantic.

By TIGRIS 5/10 — TIGRIS reports was missed by torpedo in 46° 44' N., 5° 28' W., at 2140/2.
(2) La Coubre light was periodically lit at full brilliancy from 0530 until 0600 on 5/10. The 3 U-Boat were well separated. 4 torpedoed were fired at third U-Boat in 45° 41' N., 01° 25' W., range 2500 on 135 track enemy speed 10 knots. Explosions were heard after 2 minutes 4 seconds and 2 minutes 11 seconds and on looking 30 seconds later cloud of brown smoke seen and only 2 U-Boats very haphazard depth charging followed.
(3) At 2115/11. 3 darkened ships momentarily sighted 25 miles south west of Gironde but disappeared in rainstorm course north or south.
(4) Trawler referred to in my 0942/16 was sighted on four occasions in same position.
(5) At 0155/16 in 45° 44' N., 03° 45' W a darkened trawler tried to ram but was repulsed by gunfire and perhaps sunk range 20 yards. Another trawler showing lights was in the vicinity.
(6) A/S patrols are maintained westwards and northwards from Grande Passe De L'Ouest.
(V.A.S., 1051/20)

Use of Aircraft — Represented to me by one of my Captains that possible means of checking U-Boat successes in N.W. Approaches is to develop greatly increased air activities in that area.
This particular service would not require aircraft posessing strong military characteristics or highly trained personnel.
Proposal is that any civil aircraft which has good endurance and ability to carry a depth charge should be co-opted into this service also any of the less modern type of bomber not required for R.A.F. offensive.
I recommend this proposal be actively pursued. An obvious and highly desirable advance on proposal is to obtain the use of air bases in Eire. (C.in C., H.F., 1429/20)

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

M.T.B. 17 Sunk

Whilst on patrol with M.T.B's 14 and 16 M.T.B. 17 was sunk off Ostend at 0036 today while attacking some small craft of trawler type. It is thought the cause was either own torpedo striking the bottom, or controlled mining.

U-Boat Campaign

More than 30 ships have been torpedoed by U-Boats during the last 72 hours, In view of the heavy merchant ship sinkings it is considered that more U-Boats than usual will be returning to Lorient during the next few days. PORPOISE and CACHALOT have been ordered to patrol to intercept them, and URSULA is to patrol for 48 hours on her way to join the Mediterranean Fleet.

Dover Shelled

Dover was shelled intermittently today from 1340 to 1743, about twelve rounds in all being fired from a battery on the French coast. M/S Trawler CLYTHNESS was slightly damaged.

Enemy Destroyers off Brest

7 vessels, probably destroyers, were reported by aircraft 15 miles off Brest at 1115, steering for Brest.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Bomber Command last night attacked with success docks and shipping at Antwerp, Rotterdam, Flushing, Dunkirk and Ostend.

BISMARCK at Hamburg and TIRPITZ at Wilhelmshaven were also attacked; several bombs dropped on the supposed position of the BISMARCK, causing fires and one large explosion; and bursts were seen in the target area at Wilhelmshaven. Docks at Dusseldorf, Cuxhaven and Hamburg, and petrol sheds at Emden were also attacked.

Attacks on Channel ports today were hampered by the weather, but Gravelines Docks, a convoy off Dunkirk, and shipping at Boulogne were successfully attacked. One ship in the convoy is believed to have been hit, and at Boulogne a direct hit is claimed on a large tramp steamer.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Dover was attacked twice today. Three barrage balloons were shot down.

Slight damage was caused at Mere Oil Fuel Depot. today.

Serious damage was done at Shorehaven Wharfage Company's premises today.

The rate of functioning of the R.N. Store Depot and Admiralty Gun Mounting Store at Coventry has been reduced by damage caused by raids during the night 19/20 and 20/21 Oct.

Convoy F.S. 14 was unsuccessfully bombed off the Thames Estuary early today.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Minelaying aircraft were very active last night from Shoeburyness to the Tees.

M/S Trawler WAVEFLOWER was sunk at 2359/21 off Aldburgh, presumably by mine.

M.V. HOUSTON CITY was mined this afternoon off East Oase Light Vessel and was beached.

Swordfish of Coastal Command laid mines last night off Flushing and in the Scheldt ~~and~~ N.E. of South Beveland.

Operations Against Vichy French

N.A.Madrid now states that STRASBOURG, which left Toulon 15/10 with several other important units of the French Fleet, intends to carry out training and practice firing off the Coast of Provence.

The damage done to STRASBOURG during the attack on Dakar has now been repaired.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Alexandria Bombed

60 to 70 bombs were dropped on Alexandria early this morning. No damage or casualties were caused.

East Indies

ROYAL SOVEREIGN

ROYAL SOVEREIGN sailed from Durban for Gibraltar via Freetown today.

Destroyer Attack on B.N.7. Italian Destroyer Blown up.

About midnight last night Convoy B.N. 7., escorted by LEANDER, YARRA, AUCKLAND and KIMBERLEY was attacked near Jebel Teir in the Southern Red Sea by two destroyers which fired 2 torpedoes at YARRA and shelled the convoy.
The enemy were engaged by AUCKLAND and YARRA and retired, and were chased unsuccessfully by LEANDER and KIMBERLEY.
KIMBERLEY intercepted the enemy off Harmil Island at daylight today and engaged a destroyer, which went aground and blew up.
KIMBERLEY states that destroyer, which was identified as FRANCESCO MULLO was disabled by gunfire and sunk by torpedo.
R.A.F. state that an enemy destroyer aground in this position was bombed and hit.
KIMBERLEY was hit in the engine room, and was taken in tow by LEANDER after being under fire from shore batteries.
LEANDER and KIMBERLEY were bombed by aircraft at 0720, but no damage is reported.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

China

C. in C., China reports that in French Indo-China discrimination against British trade is definitely taking place. No more co-operation can be expected from the French authorities.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE — At 0200/21. (D.C. 0210/21) At 1400/21. (D.C. 1405/21)

Nore Command
Notice for Steam — Air R/C incomplete. Steam to be kept at half an hours notice till 0900/21. (C. in C., Nore, 0541/21 to AURORA etc.,)

Rosyth Dockyard
A/A Defences — Your 1907/20 and my 1411/20. Intend to concur with move while Fleet based as at present. It is a question of balancing defence requirements with very limited resources (A.C.N.S. H. 1319/21 to C. in C., H.F.

Your 1101/20. Understand that improvements in A.A. fire control have been made locally, also one additional lighter flight is being moved to Turnhouse. Additional guns are not available except at expense of other vital targets. Existing situation must therefore be accepted for the present. C. in C., Fighter Command, is aware of importance of Rosyth. (A.C.N.S. H. 1320/21 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Your 1905/19. Concur while Home Fleet is based as at present. (A.C.N.S. H. 1322/21 to Air Ministry)

Policy

Enemy
Red Cross Ships — Admiralty message 1903/26/8 refers. No German ship is exempt from attack unless it is one of those promulgated as a hospital ship in A.F.O. 3356/40 or a future A.F.O.
2. By day all other ships, whatever their marking may be sunk in accordance with Admiralty message 1212/21/9.
3. By night or in low visibility, any vessel under 3,000 tons marked with a Red Cross may be conclusively presumed to be a rescue boat and th erefore liable to attack unless its markings are illuminated when it is first observed and continuously thereafter. In the latter case, if circumstances permit, the vessels should be brought in for examination.
4. It is considered desirable that German vessels marked with the Red Cross should be examined whenever possible in order to obtain evidence of the work on which they are employed. Therefore, when circumstances permit
(a) Rescue Boats should be captured.
(b) Recognised Hospital Ships should either be examined at sea or brought into port in accordance with Article 4 of the 10th Hague Convention. See Prize Manual p. 103. (1st S.' 1950/21 to C's in C.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

GLASGOW	F.O. Humber's 2138/20. Passes Boom 1000 E.T.A. May Island 1815/21. (C.S. 18 1000/21 to C. in C., Rosyth)
FOXHOUND	My 1224/20. Confirmed ready to sail from Sheerness on 14/10. (C. in C., Nore, 1048/21 to C. in C., H.F.) Your 1224/20. Destination Scapa. (C. in C., H.F. 1414/21 to C. in C., Nore.)
Nore Command	Movements for night to 1200/22. (C. in C., Nore, 1200/21) (C. in C., Nore, 1750/21 to VEGA, VIMIERA)
Western Approaches	Situation at 2000/21. (C. in C., W.A., 1325/21)
CARDIFF	A.M. 1620/3. Intend sailing CARDIFF for Clyde p.m./22. (C. in C., W.A. 1352/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
Orkneys	Movements for night 21/22. (A.C.O.S. 1531/21) Trawler Lines today. (A.C.O.S. 1536/21)
Portsmouth	Movements for night 21/22. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1603/21)
Western Channel	Night Report. (C. in C., W.A., 1617/21 and 1743/21)
Dover	Patrols for night 21/22. (V.A.Dover 1252/21 and 1714/21)
VEGA VIMIERA	Sweepers meeting you North of Z at 0645 (C. in C., Nore, 2205/21 to VEGA)
JASON	Position at 2300, 56° 54' N., 7° W. steering 224° at 15 knots (JASON 2222/21 to HIBISCUS)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Sweep from Nieuport to Flushing. M.T.B. 17. Sunk

Interception from VI at 0036 reports M.T.B. 17 sunk, cause unknown as yet, no casualties 14 and 16 returning. (C. in C., Nore, 0205/21 to Admty.)
M.T.B. 17 sunk by explosion while attacking small craft of trawler type approximately one mile north of Ostend Breakwater. Syko m machine with cards up to 25/10 lost in wreck Trawler was attacked by torpedo fire which missed, then by machine gun fire, M.T.B. 14 and 16 subsequently retired under fire from shore batteries having previously damaged bow of 17 which was last portion remaining. No casualties in any boat. Cause either (A) own torpedo striking bottom or (B) controlled mining. (BEEHIVE 0432/21 to C. in C., Nore.)

Dover Shelled

Shells fell in Dover area intermittently from 1340 to 1743 about twelve rounds in all. Of these two fell in sea outside harbour, several in vicinity of Granville Docks and remainder in the town.
Sound ranges report shells were fired from battery at Tresorerie.
CLYTHNESS slightly damaged, one rating killed and one rating slightly injured. Nineteen civilians injured. (V.A.Dover 1916/21 to Admty.)

Operation D.N.

Intend to carry out operation D.N. on night 23/24 with NAIAD and BONAVENTURE, and an operation on similar lines near Stadlandet with 3 Tribals on same night. (C. in C., H.F 1936/21 to Admty.)
Operation D.N. to be carried out as follows (a) 23rd October. (b) NAIAD and BONAVENTURE. (c) 1800/23 (d) 0730/24. (C. in C., H.F. 2244/21 to F.O.C. 15 C.S.)

Force E.

Operation on lines of D.N. to carried out by 3 ships of 6th D.F. during night 23/24 near Stadlandet where shipping must leave the Inner Lead. Ships to arrive Sullom Voe p.m./22, thence to 62° N., 0° E., at 1900/23 thence to operation area, and to return crossing 1° E. by sunrise 24th. Force will be known as Force E. Code word REBEL. F.O.C. B.C.S. has full discretion to postpone the operation. (C. in C., H.F. 1943/21 to F.O.C. B.C.S.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

UTMOST / UPRIGHT — Admty. 1355/12 C. in C., Portsmouth requested to sail UTMOST and UPRIGHT for Mediterranean on 28/10 and 30/10 respectively. (V.A.S. 1023/21 to Admty)

Lorient / URSULA / PORPOISE / CACHALOT — In view of recent heavy merchant ship sinkings it is considered that more U-Boats than usual will be returning to Lorient during the next few days.
URSULA should therefore be ordered to patrol for a period not exceeding 48 hours in the vicinity of 47° 30' N., 10° 00' W., (V.C.N.S 1337/21 to V.A.S.)
U-Boats are expected to return to Lorient shortly. PORPOISE patrol in the vicinity 046° 56' N., 005° 16' W., CACHALOT in vicinity 047° 24' N., 006° 42' W., PORPOISE will be ordered to leave for base p.m. 24/10 Capt. S.2. 1554/21)
My 1734 Part One Enemy U-Boats are expected to be returning from our trade Routes to Lorient during next few days. URSULA after passing through position B.2. 048° 30' N., 010° W., is to proceed to patrol in the vicinity of position B. 3. 047° 30' N., 010°W until 1200/26th October and is then to proceed in accordance with previous route orders (V.A.S. 1733/21 to URSULA)

Positions — For following 24 hours at 0700/22. (V.A.S. 1747/21 and 0558/22)

Sinking M/V's at sight — Am giving submarines proceeding to and from Patrol in Bay of Biscay permission to sink any M/V met south of 49° N., (V.A.S. 1907/21 to Admty)

British Air Activity

804 Squadron — To retain 12. I.E. and 6 A.R. Gladiators until adequate supply of colt ammunition for Grummans is secured. (5th S.L. 1227/21 to RANAS)

Gladiators for Mediterranean — Any Gladiators at Northern Air Stations nor required for 804 Squadron or for complements of training units should now be prepared for shipment to Mediterranean. (5th S.L. 1227/21 to RANAS)

/S.A. 2. and S.A. 3.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

S.A. 2 and S.A. 3

Patrols cancelled this afternoon owing to low visibility (C. in C., Rosyth 1304/21)

Balloon Barrage

Your 1010/13 Approved. Action being taken by Balloon Command. (D. of L.D. 1742/21 to C. in C., Nore.)

Balloons. Propose to close haul in Dover Straits

Reference shelling of C.W. 14 between South Goodwin and No 10 buoy when some 200 or more rounds were fired. It has been suggested that this was rendered possible by use of R.D.F. on the balloons being flown by M.B.B. vessels.
It is proposed that, for trial, balloons should be close hauled to minimum possible height during passage through Dover Straits in future convoys. It is hoped that balloons below the height of Dover Cliffs may prove innocuous. (C. in C., Nore, 2136/21 to Adty.)

Special Air Protection for Rosyth

A. 169 21/10. The special importance previously attaching to Tyneside is now transferred to Rosyth area. You are requested to arrange as from 1200/13 for all aircraft to be routed so as to avoid the defended area there about. Air Ministry is requested to repeat this requirement to any other effected Authority. Notification will be issued as soon as necessity for this request no longer exists. (H.Q.F.C. 2359/21 to Air Ministry)

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy Aircraft Destroyed

ST. OLIVES reports large explosion in mid-air at 2018 after M.G. fire from ships. 3 cables N. 70° E of East Oaze. (Commodore, Sheerness 0952/21 to Adty.)

Shoreham

Following received from R.N.O. Shoreham. At 1100 low flying enemy aircraft straddled Shoreham Harbour with stick of bombs seriously damaging Shoreham Wharfage Company's premises. 2 cranes out of action 5 men killed. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1254/21 to Adty)

/Mere Oil.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Mere Oil-Fuel Depot — Attacked by one Heinkel 111 at 1240. 6 bombs No casualties or damage. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1310/21 to Adty.) Minor damage to toe of Mund at S.E. corner of Depot, and new evacuating Pump House severely shaken. (O.C. Works, Portland, 1803/21 to C.E. in C.)

Dover — Enemy aircraft shot down 3 barrage balloons at 1105/21; and 11 light H.E. bombs fell on Dover at 1250/21 (V.A. Dover 1916/21 to Adty.)

Coventry — R.N. Store Depot and Admty. Gun Mounting Store Coventry hit by number of high explosive and incendiary bombs night of Sunday 20/10. and again night Monday 21/10 October. Several storehouses and workshops badly damaged main Office Block almost completely gutted, and all telephone and teleprinter communications destroyed. The whole establishment still functioning but at reduced rate. No casualties to personnel. (N.S.O. Coventry 1630/21)

Mining

Humber — Open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 0357/21 to Admty.)

Day and Night Sweeping — My 1823/7. This will be repeated by 4 ships of 5th M/S Flotilla ahead of E.N. 11. sailing 0800/22. (C. in C., Rosyth 1221/21 to C. in C., W.A.)

Plymouth — Since my 1108/21/9. Three Red mines detonated by single "L" sweep. Bearings frm Eastern Breakwater Beacon.
0720 123° 3 cables at end and under tail;
0740 124° 2.7 cables 50 yards on Port Side Tail;
0828 124° 3.9 cables 50 yards ahead of 2nd electrode 100 yards to Port.
(C. in C., W.A. 1356/21 to Admty.)

Humber — Red mine exploded by LL trawlers at 0255/21 155° Spurn Point 1.4 miles. Red.Inside. Far. Another at 0500/21 132° Spurn Point 2.35 miles. Red.Inside. Near. Unusually big explosion with flame. Also at 2130/20 097° Spurn Point 5.6 miles believe exploded on striking surface after release from A/C. (F.O. Humber 1500/21 to Admty.)

/Straits....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining- Contd.

Straits of Dover

504. My 1615/20. Routine sweeps today Monday QZS 104 and 105 North Goodwin Light Vessel to Dover by one pair oropesa trailers 40% nothing found.
QZS 105 Lydd Light Float to South Goodwin by one pair LL trawlers 30% Nothing found.
QSS 220 total number of mines swept 27 includes one mine which damaged HAMBLETON.
In addition convoy CE 12 Sweepers found three on 4th October and Convoy CW 14 sweepers one on 11th October. (V.A.Dover 1815/21 to Admty.)

Lyme Bay

2 moored Mines Type X cut and sunk in 50° 23' N., 2° 41' W., (F.O.I.C. Portland 1835/21 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Brest

Aircraft report 7 vessels, probably Destroyers, in 245° Brest 15 miles at 115, steering for Brest. (V.A.S. 1307/21 to Submarines Area B.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

GRANBY — British, 2051 tons. Newcastle to London with Coal. Ashore on Saltocar Rocks, Redcar. Tug standing by. Lifeboat Secretary thinks she will float daylight tomorrow. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 0045 and 0100/21 to Adty.)

SHIKARI — Defect in steering engine. May become serious. Returning to Londonderry. (SHIKARI 0705/21)

SEROOSKERK — Dutch, 8456 tons. From Fremantle, due Durban 17/10. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town. 1125/21 to Adty.)

FOWEY — When leaving Gourock Pier in easterly gale sustained damage above water line. Expect complete repairs 27/10. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1611/21 to C. in C., W.A.)

ST. LOMAN — A/S Trawler. Reports engine trouble and may break down before reaching port. Now making 7 knots in 52° 36' N., 19° 16' W., (HAVELOCK 2030/21 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
O.B. 234	Of group 3 only available to escort are ARROW and AMAZON. (Capt D. 12 to C. in C., W. A. 1755/21)
H.G. 45	Became separated during dark hours in full gale. Position (GLEANER 1301/21) Have rounded up 6 ships, position etc. (ANTELOPE 1900/21)
O.L. 8	Detach ARUDEL CASTLE Remain with O.L. 8. until 25° W., then convoy disperse. (C. in C W.A. to MARGAREE, 1153/21)
S.L.F. 52	DUNNOTTAR CASTLE to act as ocean escort (C. in C., W.A. 1425N/21)
S.L. 52	DUNNOTTAR CASTLE and MOOLTAN to escort (C. in C., 1425N/21)
H.X. 80	Meet 33 ships. (C. in C., W.A. to HASTINGS PHILANTE, WANDERER, CASTLETON, FLEUR DE LYS PICOTEE 1138/21) Informing CLYDE whwn enemy will enter her area (C. in C., W.A. 1755/21)
W.N. 25	My 1215/21. Amend escorts to read H.M.T. NORTHERN GEM, ARCTIC EXPLORER (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1500/21) Cancel my 1500/21 (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1748/21)
S.C. 9.	Owing to damage to escort this convoy will not sail till 1600 G.M.T./24, three days late. (D.T.D. 1705/21)
H.X. 79 H.X. 79 A	Cancel my 1523/21. H.X. 79 is to be escorted to Clyde. JASON, HIBISCUS land survivors at Greenock then escort H.X. 79 A to Methil. (C. in C., W.A. 1949/21)
SVEADROTT CASTOR	Position (N.A.Stockholm 1111/21)
SOTRA SOIKA SVANA SARNA	Intend sailing 1400/21 in accordance Admty. 1712/20. Route to St. Vincent and Sierra Leone. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1345/21)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.10.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

W.N. and E.N. Convoys

Your 2258/18.(All O.A Convoys to be abolished after O.A. 235 and W.N. and E.N. Convoys to be mn between Liverpool and Methil.)
Till more escorts are available intend to provide two A/S Trawlers to escort each W.N. and E.N. Convoy and a small Trawler Group at Oban for linking up duties.
Intend to transfer corvettes of Nothern escort force to West Coast bases.
While need for A.A. protection for East Coast Convoys is fully appreciated consider that Sloops should be relieved from this duty as soon as possible by HUNT Class Destroyers in order that the long endurance of the sloops may be made use of to reinforce ocean escorts of S.C. and Gibraltar convoys. (C. in C., W.A., 1851/21 to Admty.)

Admty. 2258/18. Div. I of Belfast trawler force is to be reconstituted to provide two A/S Trawlers for each W.N. and E.N. convoy. It is estimated that this service will absorb 28 trawlers. Provision of these escorts must take precedence over other requirements.
A group of 5 A/S Trawlers is to be detailed for linking up duties at Oban.
Trawlers of least value for Ocean work are to be detailed for above duties.
C. in C., Rosyth has been asked to provide Corvette escort for the E.N. convoys on 26, 27 and 19/10. (C. in C., W.A., 1855/21 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

MOST SECRET.

21.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Continued).

Your 2355/20 re communication to French Admiralty. Action deferred. (N.A. Madrid 1319/21).

MASSILIA, French Exchange.

My 1235/19 re exchange of British and French sailors, following from French Admiralty. MASSILIA leaving Casablanca for Liverpool will pass through following positions. Please give assurance that route instructions beyond point (d) will be given MASSILIA direct in time. (Ends).
(N.A. Madrid, 1902/21).

Las Palmas.

Bi-Weekly report, known definitely military defence works being intensely continued in North and South areas of this island, trenches, machine gun posts also under-ground petrol dumps being constructed.
(Consul, Las Palmas, 1650/21, to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

Overdue Ships.

SEROOSKERK due Durban 17/10 from Fremantle not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown 1125/21).

PENNLAND
WESTERNLAND.

Admty. 2337/15. Intentions for move referred to. (C.in C. S.A. 1051/21).
Asking for onward escort of WESTERNLAND to Mombasa. (C.in C. S.A. 1725 M/21 to C.in C. S.A. (See C.in C. E.I. 1216/22).

INDOCHINOIS

1659/19. CORNWALL first instructed vessel to return Dakar and escorted her. On receipt of CORNWALL report I ordered that INDOCHINOIS was to be brought into Freetown in accordance my 2133/18. This is reported Natal telegram 1909/19 stating vessel was turned back to Dakar and Natal telegram 1837/20 gives impression that vessel was still en route to Dakar when she attempted to scuttle, whereas she was then well on her way to Freetown. (C.in C. S.A. 1525 M/21 to Admty.)

ANTONIS CHANDRIS sunk 8/9.

S.S. ENA DE LARRINAGA arrived Buenos Aires 21/10 with Chief Officer and nine crew of Greek ship, ANTONIS CHANDRIS this latter ship was stopped at 1945/8/9, in position 11° 25' N 34° 10' W and sunk two hours later by bombs placed on board. Rescue was effected 27 days later.
Description of raider.
(N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires, 1845/21).

/ Raider's Captives .....

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued)

Raider's Captives. Reported from German source that German raider ANNELIESE ESSBERGER has crews of seven ships on board including that of the S.S. BIBURY. Graded B 3.
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 1635/21) (see also German Merchant Ships).

Enemy Intelligence. For D.N.I. from Henzell, Security Officer, Force Freetown. Result of interrogation of 28 Poles and 1 Sergeant R.A.M.C. (British) ex France via Oran, Casablanca and Dakar arrived Freetown 19/10. Will proceed U.K. by DUNNOTTAR CASTLE. (Comdr., Sierra Leone Area, 1300/21).

Mediterranean.

R.D.F. Admty. 1703/20. Request R.D.F. type 286 be fitted to these 2 ships. Has BARHAM any form of R.D.F? (C.in C. Med., 0033/21 to Admty).

Alexandria Raid. Air raid 0215 to 0400. About 12 aircraft, 60 to 70 bombs, no damage no casualties.
(R.A.I.C. Alexandria, 1101/21).

STRASBOURG My 1210/18. French N.A. states STRASBOURG flying flag of Adm. Laborde left Toulon 15/10 with several other important units to carry out practice firing and for training period off coast of Provence. (N.A. Madrid, 1140/21).

Navy Department inform me that an informant at Vichy has heard STRASBOURG and twenty other units left Toulon 18/10 and thinks important units at Toulon and elsewhere are being sent to Syria to oppose naval and military operations in that area and so ensure loyalty to Vichy. Informant also states French Navy has called up 12000 additional men and that Foreign Minister Bonnet has gone to Marseilles to meet German and Italian missions there.
Navy Department state French N.A. Madrid knows nothing of STRASBOURG's movements.
(N.A. Washington, 1745/21).

"U" Class Submarines. U-class submarines proceeding to Mediterranean are to be transferred to 1st Sub-Flot. from date of arriving Gibraltar.
(V.A.S. 1203/21).

/ Operation "Uniform" .....

MOST SECRET.

21.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Uniform".

C. in C. Mediterranean's 1251/20.
If "Uniform" is postponed consider it desirable that H.M. Ships should sail from U.K. as arranged to enable reconnaissance in force to be carried out in Western Mediterranean to vicinity of Balearic Islands by Force 'H', BARHAM, BERWICK and GLASGOW. This reconnaissance would serve as cover for "Uniform" observing that on previous occasions departure of Force to Eastward has been precursor to definite operation involving close approach to South Sardinia.
(S.O. Force H, 1359/21, amended 1926/21).

Loss of Sidi Barrani.

Your 1559/16. A.T. 1744/10 was intended as an intelligence summary of facts for information only. Words "military value" applied to Sidi-Barrani were misleading as they were intended to be read in narrowest sense. Naval Staff agreed with your appreciation of results of loss of Sidi-Barrani and the increased danger of any further advance is fully appreciated here vide A.T. 2207/21/9.
(Hd. of M. 1942/21 to C.in C. Med.).

Malta, Stocks.

Re policy of stocks at minimum of 6 months' consumption. Consider it desirable to take advantage of present enemy inactivity to store and victual Malta. (V.A. Malta, to C.in C. Med., 2309/21).

French Shipping.

My 1509/17. French Ships CHAMPOLLION and MARIETTE PACHA leaving Marseilles 23/10 due Beirut 26/10 and guarantee implied carrying no cargoes also granted safe passage. T.O.O. 1129/21.
(C.in C. Med., 1246/21).

Turkish situation.

Reply to 1700/18 for Admiral Kelly
(C.in C. Med. 1937/21 to N.A. Angora).

East Indies.

F.N.7. Convoy attacked by Destroyers.

At 2320 Z/20 Convoy in position JEBEL TEIR 35 was attacked by two destroyers which approached from Northward and retired in 290 direction.
Enemy fired two torpedoes at YARRA and shelled convoy. AUCKLAND and YARRA engaged enemy. LEANDER and KIMBERLEY chased.
LEANDER opened fire returning at 0010 Z/21 to rejoin convoy having lost sight of enemy.
No damage so far reported.
(LEANDER to S.N.O. Red Sea 0145 Z/21).

/ Convoy B N 7 .....

MOST SECRET.

21.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

Convoy B N 7 was attacked by 2 Italian destroyers in position 015° 58' N. 041° 24' E. during night of October 20/21. Enemy fired 2 torpedoes at YARRA and shelled convoy. AUCKLAND and YARRA engaged and LEANDER and KIMBERLEY chased enemy. LEANDER after opening fire lost touch and returned to convoy. KIMBERLEY proceeded to intercept enemy off Harmil at daylight and sighted and engaged a destroyer bearing 250 degrees 7 miles from position 016° 37' N. 040° 26' E. at 0250 Z/21. No damage to convoy so far reported. Part 2 follows. (C.in C. E.I. 0356 Z/21).

KIMBERLEY damaged.

My 0356/2 Part 2 Italian destroyer reported aground at 0330 Z/21 and abandoning her. KIMBERLEY hit in engine room is still 12 knots at present under fire from shore batteries.
(C.in C. E.I. 0358/21).
My 0358/21. Enemy destroyer blown up.
(C.in C. E.I. 0440Z/21).
My 0358/21 KIMBERLEY proceed 0437Z on one engine, 15 knots, course 080 degrees.
(C.in C. E.I. 0502 Z/21).
My 0502/21. KIMBERLEY is holed above the water line. Both engines out of action. Position at 0640Z 21st 016° 31' north 040°, 32' east in tow of LEANDER.
LEANDER and KIMBERLEY were bombed at 0720Z. No damage reported. (C.in C. E.I., 0812Z/21).

Djibuti, French Evacuations.

Reference Governor Aden's 100 dated 20/10 to Colonial Office, I adhere to views expressed in my 1/22822 of 16/10. Am firmly of opinion that we should not allow removal by sea of 4 battalions from Jibuti.
As regards ESPERANCE to make Concession allowing her to proceed Jibuti will only encourage hope that further concessions can be extracted from us and so possibly weaken elements who may be disposed to resist Italian demands.
(C.in C. M.E. 1729/21 to W.O).

Lourenco Marques. S.O.I. Capetown's 1805/19, increase of Greek ships calling at Lourenco Marques, passed to you with reference to my 1068/11. (C. in C. E.I., to Admty. 0736 Z/21).

Convoy C.M.4. DURBAN CASTLE, LLANGIBBY CASTLE, LLANSTEPAN CASTLE and SELANDIA arrived 0500 Z/21. (D.S.T.D. Mombasa, 0545 Z/21).

/ WESTRALIA .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued).

WESTRALIA	To leave Colombo 0430 Z/22 for Bombay (route). Will be required to escort convoy B.M.3. (C.in C. E.I. 0728 Z/21.)
GLENMARKH Contraband.	My 0746/12 Mauritius report dated 30/9 states that Madagascar authorities may withhold from GLENMARKH loading permit for cargo of graphite consigned New York if vessel is to call at Indian Port. Also reported that vessel imported tinned milk and pine oil from South Africa to Madagascar. (C.in C. E.I. 0738 Z/21).
MAROUSIO LOGOTHETI	My 1805B/19. Chesor Mauritius reports MAROUSIO LOGOTHETI has completed unloading at Tamatave and future movements depend on orders from French Admiralty, (S.O.I. Capetown, 1413 B/21).
U.S.S A.	Route. CALEDON to escort to 12°., 45°., Suez Canal, Red Sea Force, S.O. SHROPSHIRE. (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 1150/21).
C.M.4.	Convoy C.M.4 arrived. (N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 0540 Z/21).
Shipping Intelligence.	Report from officers Greek ship EUTHALIA, arrived from Diego Suarez. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1823 B/21).
Air Attack on Massawa, 19/10.	A. 849 21/10. Part 3 begins Para. 2 Sudan. 19/10. 3 Blenheims, 45 Squadron made high level attack on fuel tanks Massawa. One bomb fell on jetty and another among a group of lighters at jetty 200 yards north of target. 4 250 lb. bombs were hung up of which one fell off and hit buildings on Massawa Island and two others fell in sea. Slight A.A. fire experienced. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1203/21).
Air Attack on Convoy. B.N.7. 20/10.	My A. 695 20/10. Summary No. 130, add 1 S.79 attacked convoy B. N. 7 at 0747. Enemy located by Blenheim escort after bombs fell and chased for approximately 30 mins. intercepted south of Massawa. Ensuing combat broke off with enemy aircraft losing height rapidly emitting large cloud black smoke from fuselage. No damage to aircraft which subsequently crashed taking off Kamaran as already reported. Now ascertained crash caused by failure one engine believed not due enemy action in above combat. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1751/21).

MOST SECRET.

21.10.1940.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

French Attitude. My 1401/19 further information confirms that both Admiral Decoux and Terraux are definitely subservient to orders from Vichy and no more co-operation from them can be expected. Discrimination against British trade is definitely taking place. I submit that Gunny Bag industry controlled by Calcutta is our greatest stranglehold and if stopped may cause Governor General to reconsider his present attitude. I am opposed to interfering with French shipping on high seas as this might provoke retaliation by French naval forces. I am withdrawing the naval liaison officer from Saigon but leaving the N.C.S.O. for the present. (C.in C. China. 0313Z/21 to Admty.)

French Shipping. Your 1254/19. Subject to contrary instructions from Admty., it is not my intention to capture French ships on the high seas. (C.in C. China, 0331 Z/21).

River Gunboats. My 0447/6. CRICKET and TARANTULA should reach Singapore by end of October. Is it still the intention that they should leave the China Station? (C.in C. China, 0513 Z/21).

LAURENT MEEUS Admty. 1713/20. Master of TILAWA reported tanker LAURENT MEEUS painted grey all over, deeply loaded, departed Osaka 8/9. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0545 Z/21).

French Warships. By D.F. at 0850 Z/21, French cruiser LAMOTTE-PICQUET off Cap St. Jacques, reliable fix. Single bearings 0515 Z/20 indicated French sloop AMIRAL CHARNER off Indo-China Coast. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 1451/21).

C.in C. Far East. The appointment of A.C.M. Sir R. Brooke-Popham to new post of C.in C., Far East. Details. (W.O., to C.O.C.'s Malaya and Hong Kong 2230/21).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

French Shipping. My 1851/20. Names of ships sailed are MARCELLA, MARTIN LE GASSE, JACQUESCOEUR, DUQUAY TROUIN. One of the two sailing within 48 hours is BOIS ROSIE.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 2047/21 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

CHESTERFIELD. 4 cases of diphtheria, more suspects. Ordered to return to St. John's N.F.
(BURNHAM, 0125/21).

EMILE BERTIN. BEARN. Your 2203/18 and your 1003/20.
Navy Department informe me that EMILE BERTIN returned to Martinique p.m./18 after swinging ship since her exercising with JEANNE D'ARC. American destroyer reports having seen BEARN at Martinique on 19/10.
(N.A. Washington, 1204/21).

Australia.

Suspicious Ship. KARITANE reported a suspicious vessel at 1347 Z/20 in position 039° 09' S. 149° 35' E. Air searches were carried out but no suspicious vessel was sighted.
(A.C.H.B., 0847 Z/21).

MOST SECRET.

21.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ITHAKA.	Arrived from Russia 3,000 manganese ore. (Macrae, Galatz, 1122/21).
LARISSA.	Left for Russia in ballast. (Macrae, Galatz, 1122/21).
DELOS.	Left for Russia in ballast. (Macrae, Galatz, 1122/21).
KULMERLAND ANNELIESE ESSBERGER	My 0144/10. Now confirmed KULMERLAND sailed, date uncertain. ANNELIESE ESSBERGER returned to mooring about 11/10. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0432/21).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

H.X. 79.
CLINTONIA
(S.C.7.)

Not met H X 79. Have developed defect in steering engine which may become serious, intend therefore returning to Londonderry for examination of steering engine. Expect to arrive Lough Foyle 1430. Have 20 survivors on board from CLINTONIA (S.C.7.) (SHIKARI, 0705/21).

CLINTONIA, British, 5196 tons, in S.C.7, believed torpedoed and sunk, 19/10. 20 survivors picked up and 22 others landed at Londonderry 21/10. (D.S. 413).

STANGRANT
(torpedoed 13/10).

Now presumed to have sunk. (D.S. 413).

NORA
(torpedoed 13/10).

Estonian, 1186 tons, sailing independently, Sydney N.S. to Belfast, reported to have been torpedoed 0839/13 in 57.02 N., 13.11 W. (D.S. 413).

S.C.7.

SALVONIA reports her position is 56.40 N., 09.55 W. Now has 84 survivors on board, at 0900/21. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1114/21).

CUBANO
SULACO
(O.B. 229).

Rescued 31 from Norwegian CUBANO 1 from British Merchant Ship SULACO both torpedoed 2325/19 057° (? 25' ?55') 025° 00'. My position course and speed are 056° 58' N., 023° 57' N., 072 degs., 15'. (SAGUENAY, 1158/21, to C.in C. W.A.).

INVERSHANNON
(torpedoed 21/9.)

Boat found by Icelandic Trawler GYLFI 1300/18 in 56° 25' N. 7° 30' W., empty and overturned. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1540/21).

Submarines Reported.

Homeward bound U-boats may be expected to arrive Bergen within next few days. Cancel my 1653/12. Proceed coastwise to patrol off Fejeosen. (F.O.(S), 0004/21, to SEAWOLF).

1104.

D.F. 56.45 N., 15° W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1212/21 amended 1346/21).

2125.

Indications that you may have been sighted by submarine. (C.in C. W.A. to ANTELOPE, GLEANER, HAVELOCK, SKEENA, 2125/21).

1421.

58.30 to 59.30 N; W. of 20° W. position indefinite (D.S. 413).

/ Estimated U/B dispositions. .....

MOST SECRET.

21.10.40.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Continued).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian - No news

German - 1 in about 49 degrees 30' N. 10 degrees 30' W. at 1005/21 proceeding to Lorient.

1 West and 1 S.W. of Ireland proceeding to Lorient.
1 was in about 55° 40' N. 16° W. at 1543/20.
1 was in about 57° N. 15° W. at 1104/21.
1 was in about 57° 30' to 58° N. 18° to 20°W. at 1330/20.
1 possibly in about 59° N. and W. of 25° W.
1 possibly in about 53° N. and W. of 25° W.
Possibly 1 more in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
(D.B.I.C. 1317/21).

Italian LAFOLE

Sunk by GALLANT and HOTSPUR, 1645/20. (See North Atlantic).

Assessment of U/B Attacks.

My 2028/14 para. 5, request reports may be made in the following form:-

(a) Serial Number. (b) Time and date of attack. (c) H.M. Ships or aircraft taking part. (d) Position. (e) Assessment. (f) Remarks.

2. The following assessments are in use at Admiralty for attacks on German U-boats. Request yours may conform as far as practicable:-

A. Known Sunk. B. Probably Sunk. C. Probably Damaged (A). D. Probably Damaged (B). E. Probably Slightly damaged. F. Insufficient evidence of damage. G. No damage. H. Insufficient evidence of presence of U-Boat. I. Non-Sub.

Attacks assessed "C" are those promising attacks which are believed seriously to have damaged the U-Boat, and which may have proved fatal, but on which assessment "B" or "A" has been with-held pending receipt of intelligence indicating that the attack was probably successful. Assessment "D" indicates that U-Boat was probably seriously damaged and had to return to her base.
(D. A/S.W. 1727/21 to C.in C. Med.).

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(28)

MOST SECRET.

22.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

U-boat Campaign. MALCOLM, WILD SWAN, WIVERN and VETERAN are to be sailed as soon as possible to Liverpool for escort duties in the N.W. Approaches.

ARGUS with aircraft, HURRICANE, BEAGLE and ACHATES sailed from Iceland early this morning for the Clyde.

MARGAREE sunk. Canadian destroyer MARGAREE is believed to have been sunk in collision with S.S. PORT FAIRY in Convoy O.L.8, 450 miles west of Slyne Head, at 0230 today.

British Air Activity.

Bomber Command. Operations of Bomber Command last night were hampered by the weather conditions.
BISMARCK and perhaps PRINZ EUGEN, and Docks at Hamburg were attacked. A single aircraft attacked Borkum Seaplane base.
The only sortie undertaken during the day attacked a cargo ship 3 miles north of Hook of Holland, scoring a direct hit.

Coastal Command. 3 Coastal Command aircraft bombed Boulogne last night in a thick mist.
A Blenheim dropped bombs today on Lorient No.1. Power Station.
Seven destroyers were seen in Brest at 1255.

Enemy Air Activity.

Four light H.E. bombs fell in the harbour at Dover at 1245, without causing any damage.

4 minesweepers were attacked by enemy aircraft off Dover p.m. today, but were undamaged.

Convoy F.S.15 was bombed unsuccessfully in the Thames Approaches this evening.

Mining.

Operation B.S.42. TEVIOTBANK and PLOVER with? ICARUS and IMPULSIVE laid mines last night in the East Coast Mine Barrier.

M/S Trawler JOSEPH BUTTON was sunk at 0900 today off Aldeburgh, presumably by a mine.
M/S Trawler HICKORY was sunk by a mine at 1235, South of Portland.

Liverpool was closed at 0305 owing to mines laid by enemy aircraft.

/ Falmouth .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. (Continued).

Falmouth was opened at 0245 today, a searched channel having been cleared.

The Swedish S.S. SOLSTAD is reported to have been mined in the southern Baltic.

Enemy minelaying aircraft operated off the East coast last night.

C.in C. Nore has asked for more fast minesweepers to be allocated to the Nore Command. Mining of the searched channels by E.boats is frequent and losses due to acoustic mines have made the sweeping situation more difficult.

Operations against Vichy French.

The French Admiralty state that it has been arranged that four French ships SAN FRANCISCO, OREGON, WINNIPEG and WYOMING shall sail from the U.S.A. to U.K. to repatriate French naval ratings to France.

Mediterranean.

Damage was done early this morning to an aircraft factory and to 5 grounded aircraft at Aboukir in an attack by enemy aircraft.

East Indies.

KIMBERLEY, in tow of KINGSTON, arrived at Port Sudan this evening.

MOST SECRET.

22.10.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 0200/22. (D.C.0201/22).
At 1400/22. (D.C.1416/22).

Nore Command. Air reconnaissance unsatisfactory. Steam to be kept at half an hours notice till 0900/22. (C.in C. Nore 0507/22 to AURORA, etc.)

Policy.

Sweeping Requirements in Nore Command. Request consideration to allocation of more fast minesweepers to the Nore Command. Owing to the proximity of enemy ports, mining of the Searched Channels by E Boats is frequent and is possible on any fine night. When this occurs the Sweepers at present available are employed in sweeping the Convoys through the danger area. These Convoys amount to half a million tons weekly and even a temporary stoppage would be a serious matter. The employment of available fast Sweepers with Convoys entails delay in defining and clearing the mined areas and until this is done there is difficulty in moving Warships and operating patrol vessels. Losses due to acoustic mines have made the sweeping situation more difficult. (C.in C. Nore 1520/22. to Adty).

Movements.

Portsmouth. Movements for night 22/23. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1313/22).

Orkneys. Movements tonight. (A.C.O.S.1531/22 and 1814/22).

MALCOLM
WILD SWAN
WIVERN
VETERAN. To be sailed as soon as possible to join C.in C. W.A. for Escort Duties in N.W. Approaches. Capt: D.16 and Staff should remain at Harwich. (A.C.N.S. H. 1535/22 to C.in C. Nore) Request you sail ships for Liverpool p.m/23. (C.in C. Nore 1738/22 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.10.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Northern Patrol. Trawler Line today. (A.C.O.S. 1536/22).

Western Channel. Night Report. (C.in C. W.A. 1617/22).

Northern Escort Force. Intend to transfer ships of N.E.F. to Liverpool sloop and Corvette Divisions as follows. (C.in C. W.A. 1640/22 to C.in C. Rosyth, and 1644/22 to Capt: D. Liverpool).

Rosyth Area. Movements. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1826/22).

SKEENA. Have remained near Commodore Noon R/V 53° 38'N., 17° 5'W since 1230/22. No ships sighted. Now proceeding to R/V with ANTELOPE. (SKEENA 1846/22 to HAVELOCK).

HAVELOCK. My position 53° 50'N., 16° W. course 080°, speed 8 knots. Only HESPERUS in company. No ships of Convoy sighted in R/V at noon today. (HAVELOCK 2000/22 to C.in C. W.A)

11th M/S Flotilla. Available ships of the 11th M/S Flotilla are to be sailed forthwith at moderate despatch for Milford Haven. (A.C.N.S. H 2302/22 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Operations.

Operation D.N.Y. My 1434/26/9 NAIAD and BONAVENTURE leave Rosyth a.m/23, crossing 1° E., at 1800/23 outward and 2° E., by 0730/24 homeward. (V.A.S.1028/22 to S/M's Area A).

Force E. Capt: D.6 in SOMALI, MATABELE, PUNJABI. Sullom Voe p.m/23. Return to Scapa on completion. If on first night conditions unsuitable, or if nothing sighted and Force considered undetected, Capt: D.6 may repeat operation 24 hours later, retiring to westward to 1° W. in interval. Capt: D.6 should report when operation either complete or finally abandoned. (F.O.B.C.S.1818/22 to Capt: D.6)

MOST SECRET.

22.10.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Force E. (Contd.) Ships of 6th D.F. will operate near Statlandet during night 23/24. They leave Sullom Voe to pass through 62° N., 0° E., at 1900/23 and withdraw to cross 1° E., by sunrise 24th.
(V.A.S.1046/22 to S/M's Area A).

Iceland. Intend sail ARGUS, ACHATES, HURRICANE, BEAGLE at 0400/23 for Clyde. Route (F.O.Iceland 1505/22 to F.O.C.N.P).

Expected time of arrival Clyde 1100/23. Intend fly off 9 Walrus aircraft in 3 flights beginning 0800/25 for Donibristle. (ARGUS 1059/22 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

Force E. Patrol to East of Shetlands. Enemy has shown marked interest in Shetlands today. Force E is to patrol to eastward of Shetland in longitude 000° 30' west tonight. Leave the latitude to arrive at daylight to patrol between Muckle Flugga and Port Arthur 061° 15' north 000° 00' west to search for homeward bound U/Boats. Aircraft from Hatston and Sullom Voe will co-operate from daylight 23rd October. Patrol is to be abandoned in time to carry out operation at D.N.U. as previously ordered.
(F.O.C. I.B.C.S. 1929/22 to Capt: D.6)

Dover Shelled. Between 0752 and 0903 today, 2 shells fell in Dover and 2 in sea outside Harbour. 6 civilians slightly injured. No Naval damage or casualties.
(V.A. Dover 2108/22 to Admty).

Submarines.

SUNFISH. STURGEON. SUNFISH and STURGEON will be ready to leave for patrol about 26th and 29th Oct: respectively. Propose SUNFISH carries out patrol off Muckle Flugga and STURGEON off approaches to Bergen. Alternatively SUNFISH could go to Skaggeraak.
(V.A.S. 1026/22 to C.in C. H.F.)

O.23. Reports A/S Trawler Patrol off Fejeosen and northward to Holmengraa.
(V.A.S.1029/22 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

22.10.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Contd.)

Positions.	For following 24 hours at 0700/23. (V.A.S.1714/22 and V.A.S. Recd.1759/22).
L.27.	Report on D.4. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1903/22 to Adty).

British Air Activity.

Patrol S.A2N.	Cancelled owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0922/22 to C.in C. H.F.)
S.A.2 and S.A.3	Cancelled tonight owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 1310/22 to Adty).
Fighter Aircraft. Proposed variations of Markings and Colours.	H.Q.F.C. have proposed the following variations. Request your comments or approval. (Air Ministry 1442/22 to H.Q.C.C. Adty).
Havre.	Available aircraft of 53 Squadron to attack tonight shipping in Basins at Havre. (H.Q.C.C. 1505/22 to 16 Group, Detling).
Reconnaissance of Norwegian Coast.	C.in C. H.F. 1943 and 2244/21. Reconnaissance arranged between 63° 20'N and 60° 40'N, and from 59° 30'N and 20 miles S.E. of Lister. (C.in C. Rosyth 2145/22 to F.O.C. 15th C.S.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Shetlands.	At 1540 there were indications of Enemy Air reconnaissance over Shetlands and especially over Lerwick. (D.D.I.C. 1801/2 to A.C.O.S.)
Dover.	At 1245 four light H.E. Bombs fell in the Harbour. No damage or casualties. (V.A. Dover 2108/22 to Adty).
Convoy F.S.15.	Enemy aircraft bombing convoy "Bootsy" S.W. Swin. (VEGA 1900/22)

MOST SECRET.

22.10.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Falmouth.	Port now open. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0240/22).
Liverpool.	Port Closed owing to suspected Mining by enemy aircraft. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0305 and 1030/22 to Adty).
Operation B.S.42.	Completed. (TEVIOT BANK 0345/22 to Adty).
JOSEPH BUTTON.	H.M. Minesweeper. Lost by Mine which exploded in kites in about 275° Aldeburgh 5.75 miles. 5 missing. Survivors in WILLIAM WESNEY and VIMIERA (VIMIERA 0928 and 0939/22).
HOUSTON CITY. (Mined 21/10).	British, 4935 tons. Mined aft, about 1715/21, in 225° East Oaze L.V. ½ a mile. Now beached ½ mile N.E. of Red Sand Buoy. Tugs and GOLDEN EAGLE in attendance. (C.in C. Nore 1607/22 to Adty). Salvage Vessel KING LEAR to leave Sheerness immediately and go to help of HOUSTON CITY (Commodore Sheerness 1535/22 to KING LEAR)
WAVEFLOWER. (sunk 21/10).	Sunk, presumably by mine, at 2359/21, West of Z in QZS.155. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1211/22 to Adty).
S.N.10.A.	Propose to sail with 1st M.L. Squadron ADVENTURE, and 4 Town-class Destroyers at 1600/29 and lay p.m/31 between 3 following positions. (R.A.M.L. 1225/22 to Adty).
HICKORY.	Mined and sunk at 1235 in 50° 26' 24" N., 2° 45' 48" W. 10 survivors, one seriously wounded. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1655/22 to Adty).
QZS.220.	A further 3 mines cut p.m/22. (V.A.Dover 1751/22 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

22.10.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

SOLSTAD. — Swedish (?1408 tons) reported mined in Southern Baltic. Swedish W/T states all crew saved. (Air Ministry D.S.460). Adty. Message 2302/22. Request you will arrange for clearance of minefield between Coningbeg Light Vessel and 18 Q.Z.F. with 11th M.S.F. At least two other ships as Danlayers will be required. Suggested that Tree Class Trawlers would be most suitable. Two other vessels will be necessary for mine sinking. (A.C.N.S. H. 2321/22 to C.in C. W.A.)

Enemy Intelligence.

German Main Units. — Positions on 21/10. (D.D.I.C. 1159/22 to A.I.G.)

Suspicious Steamer. — Skipper Trawler DERESKE reports at midnight 19/10/40 when in position 16 miles E by N of Minehead Seeing TRANMORE BAY in 17 fathoms water. Steamer resembles a single funnelled white painted mail boat with 2 masts. Steamer had one small light forward and aft and moved about suspiciously till lost in fog Grade A.1. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven. 1240/22 to Adty).

Cherbourg. — Shipping in Harbour on 22/10. (P.R.U. St.Eval 2115/22).

Rame Head. — There is indication of unknown ship 5 to 10 miles to S. of Rame Head. Investigate. (C.in C. W.A. 2129 to KELVIN, JACKAL).

Brest. — 6 Destroyers seen, all alongside quays. (P.R.U. St. Eval 2215/22).

MOST SECRET.

22.10.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

DEFECTS AND CASUALTIES.

MARGAREE. — Believed sunk in collision with S.S. PORT FAIRY in Convoy OL8., 450 miles West of Slyne Head at 0230/22. (Daily operations report). Was Destroyer sunk. Request you signal names of survivors. (C.in C. W.A. 2020/22 to PORT FAIRY).

CAIRNGLEN. — British, 5019 tons. Aground off Souter Point. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0743/22 to Adty).

MARITIMA. — British, 5804 tons. From Glasgow. Due Durban 17/10. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town. 0955.B/22 to Adty).

JOTUNFJELL. — Norwegian Tanker, 8264 Tons. From Basra. Due Durban 18/10. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town 0955.B/22 to Adty).

GRANBY. — My0100/21. Not yet refloated. Second attempt on 28/10 should succeed. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1047/22 to Adty).

FAME.
ASHANTI. — Visited yesterday by R.A.D. Prospect of salving ASHANTI quite good if weather reasonably good till spring tides. FAME a doubtful proposition and will take longer. Suggest Chief Salvage Officer, Scapa, take charge as whole time job. C.in C. Rosyth and A.C.C.S. concur. (C.in C. H.F. 1731/22 to Adty).

CHELSEA. — Delayed by a new defect. Amended time of sailing 0800/23. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1943/22 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool).

BIBURY. — Sailed Milford Haven 28/8, due Buenos Aires 1/10, may have been sunk by raider about 9/9 south of Cape de Verde. (D.D.I.C. 1647/22).

MOST SECRET.

22nd October, 1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys	Shipping.
Reykjavik.	HIGHLANDER and HARVESTER to escort convoy to REYKJAVIK. (C.in C. W.A. 1249/22).
S.C.8.	HIGHLANDER and HARVESTER to meet at 0800/26, position. (C.in C. W.A. 1249/22).
O.B. 223) O.B. 234)	A/S trawlers detailed for (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1740/22).
H.X. 80.	Position. Escorts (HASTINGS, PHILANTE, FLEUR DE LIS, WANDERER, CASTLETON, PICOTEE) leave O.A. and O.B. 231 in time to meet H.X. 80 at 0800/23. (C.in C. W.A. 1733/22).
O.A. 233.	12 ships. Escort ABERDEEN, GARDENIA (N.C.S.O. Methil 0540/22).
F.N. 17.	Escort LOWESTOFT and WOLSEY. (C.in C. Nore 1250/22).
F.N. 18.	Escort VEGA and VIMIERA (C.in C. Nore 1250/22).
O.B. 232.	Sailed 1342/21, 12 ships, escort ENCHANTRESS, SABRE, (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1410/21)
ANADARA	Damaged tanker. Intend sailing for Falmouth 0930/23. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1545/22.
POLLY M.	Coaster. Intend sailing for Falmouth 0930/23. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1545/22).
COMORIN	When ready, to be sailed for Halifax, best available A/S and air protection being arranged. (D.O.D. (H) 1842/22).

Operations Against Vichy French.

DELHI to support Landing.

Following from Rotherham. French ship DULOC not available. HOUDUCE required for Corisco landing. Aircraft will be available.
De Gaulle urgently requests DELHI enter with Free French Forces. DELHI has seen pilot and considers entry navigationally safe. After discussion with De Gaulle. DELHI concurs it is essential he should enter to encourage French determination and ensure success of entry and subsequent landing. If you concur, request:
(a) DELHI may remain at Duala to plan operation and sail with convoy, (b) intend suggesting that Governor who commands Free French and Major Spears sail in DELHI.
De Gaulle agrees that Free French ships approach place under your orders with DELHI acting divisional commander of inshore group while in action.
(DELHI, 0136/22 to F.O.I.S.)

/ My 0136/22. .....

MOST SECRET.

22.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (Continued).

My 0136/22. Plan depends on your decision regarding DELHI's conduct. No details worked out. Amateur seamen on French side. Danger of fiasco if lack of planning and common doctrine. (DELHI, 0138/22 to F.O.I.C.S.)
Reporting above to Admty., and suggesting DELHI remains at Manoka to supervise naval planning and escorts for convoy. (DELHI, 1330/22).
My 0145/19. De Gaulle now most urgently requests that DELHI should enter concurrently with Free French Force, alternative being abandonment of operation. I Intend to agree DELHI running paravanes.
(F.O.I.C.S. 0941/22, to Admty.)

C.S.1. to Control. — Wish you to assume full responsibility for planning and conduct of operation locally. Desirable to keep Libreville out of bad hands, but cannot risk a fiasco. (D.O.D.(F) to C.S.1, 1856/22).

DELHI DEVONSHIRE. — DELHI to return to (? Point Noire Bay). DEVONSHIRE will arrive 0900. Rotherham to meet on arrival. (C.S.1 to DELHI, 2145/22).

Exchange of French Captives. — Following from French Admiralty (begins) As British Government has authorised the immediate return to France of several members of French Mission detained in England, French Admiralty has agreed that an equivalent number of British Subjects against whom special measures of mild reprisal have had to be taken may be given same facilties (ends).
Is there anything this Embassy can do to implement the above? There are still many British soldiers in unoccupied France.
(N.A. Madrid, 1020/22).

Ships for Repatriation of French naval ratings. — French Adty. state it has been arranged that four French ships are to sail from U.S.A. to U.K. to repatriate French naval ratings to France. Request that New York representative of Min. of Shipping and H.M. Ambassador Washington may be advised as follows SS MICHIGAN will not sail but will be replaced by SS SAN FRANCISCO. Authority has now been given for her departure and for that of SS OREGON, WINNIPEG, and WYOMING.
(N.A. Madrid, 1200/22).

Air and S/M crews. — Three R.A.F. Airmen from plane shot down off Casablanca, who are now held in Morocco should, if possible, be included in the arrangements for the exchange of crew of French Submarine sunk at Dakar. (Head of M. 1357/22 to C.in C. S.A.).

/ Intelligence .....

MOST SECRET.

22.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (Continued).

Intelligence. Differences between Germans and Italians re French units at Toulon and in North Africa. French N.A. message in writing from French Admty. that Britain had nothing to fear from French warships so long as we did not attack them or threaten French coasts. (N.A. Madrid, 1115/22).

PRIMAUGUET. French N.A. tells me PRIMAUGUET has not left Casablanca since 1/10. (N.A. Madrid 1140/22).

INDOCHINOIS. Requesting whether had any troops on board, etc. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C. S.A., 1857/22). Preliminary report on INDOCHINOIS (my 1659/19). Arrived Dakar 11/10 and discharged cargo. Sailed for Konakri 15/10, arriving 17/10, disembarked at Konakri 950 black troops (reported demobilized), sailing same day for Port Bouet. Has now onboard 30 tons general cargo, mainly foodstuffs. 228 demobilized unarmed black troops for repatriation to home in Ivory Coast, 1 demobilized French officer in charge. Other passengers. No arms. Master and crew show little anti-British feeling. Proposals for disposing of troops and passengers. (C.in C. S.A. to Admty., 2017 N/22, corrected 0625/23).

North Atlantic.

Lisbon Patrol. Gibraltar departures 0820/22. M.L. 126 escorted by KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE to operate off Lisbon. (S.O.I., Gib., 1006/22).

South Atlantic.

S.W.2. CARTHAGE escorting Convoy S.W.2 arrived. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 0539/22).

Overdue Ships. MARITIMA due Durban 17/10 from Glasgow JOTUNFJEL due Durban 18/10 from Basra, both not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 0955 B/22).

Raider Report. S.S. DEFOE now at Buenos Aires reports having heard NATIA calling Q Q Q 8/10, Position 000° 50' N. 032° 24' W. (C.in C. S.A. 1706/22).

Lagos, Use of. If use of Dakar in future is unlikely, suggest possibility of making greater use of repair and docking facilities at Lagos be examined. Observations. (C.in C. S.A. 1931/22).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Uniform" — Requesting M.T. ships, as they will be formed in line with warships, be provided with signal ratings and equipment (details). (S.O. Force H, to Admty., 1730/22).

Greece. — Rome report that invasion of Greece to begin 25/10. Stated Russia promised the Dardanelles in return of accession to Axis. (Minister, Washington, 1739/22 to F.O.)

Alexandria Raid. — Operational Summary 134 to 1200/22. 0330-0530, estimated about 9 enemy aircraft in 5 groups bombed Alexandria area. 4 bombs fell on 103 M.U. Aboukir, severely damaging airscrews shop and 1 Valencia, slight damage to other aircraft. 1 airman slightly wounded. Bombers carefully avoided A/A barrage over harbour. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1236/22) About 12 aircraft, 20 bombs. (R.A. Alexandria 1040/22).

GNAT. — Your 0748/6. GNAT to proceed Mediterranean as soon as ready. Minesweeping gear should be sent. (D. of P., 1855/22, to C.in C. E.I.)

Torpedo Bombing Attacks. — Your 0930/17. Description of tactis used in torpedo bombing attacks on KENT and LIVERPOOL, and in AJAX action with destroyers. (C.in C. Med. to S.O. Force H., 0925/22).

East Indies.

LLANSTEFAN CASTLE. — Left Mombasa 1155 G.M.T./22, troop transport. (N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 1225 Z/22).

KIMBERLEY, destruction of FRANCESCO NULLO 21/10. — My 0812/21. Hopes to repair one engine at sea. Probably going to Port Sudan. (C.in C. E.I., 0336 Z/22).
My 0336/22. KIMBERLEY in tow of KINGSTON expects to arrive Port Sudan 1600 Z/22. (C.in C. E.I. 11522/22).
My 0835/21. Following from KIMBERLEY. Destroyer identified as FRANCESCO NULLO by letters NL on side. Disabled by gunfire, sunk by torpedo. KIMBERLEY hit by one 4" shell from shore battery, Harmil Island, of 3 guns, two of which were silenced. Main damage caused by splinters piercing steam pipe. None killed, 3 wounded. (C.in C. E.I. 1548/22).

R.A.F. Operational Summary 134. Three Blenheims 45 Sqdn. making offensive recco. Harmil Island located and bombed destroyer aground there, one bomb hitting stern destroyer. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1236/22).

/ WESTERNLAND .....

MOST SECRET.

22.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

WESTERNLAND.	Your 1725/21. CERES can escort from vicinity of Durban. (C.in C. E.I., to C.in C. S.A. 1216 Z/22).
B.M.2.	Details of transports sailed in B.M.2 from Bombay 20/10. (S.S.T.O., Bombay 1045 Z/22).
B.N.8½.	Your 0719/19. Intend U.S.6 personnel to leave Bombay (date) in Convoy B.N.8½, about 11 ships. As no slow personnel ships in view for B.N.9, there will not be a B.N.9 Convoy from Bombay. Request sail any store ships for B.N.9 to catch convoy at Aden. Ships of 13 knots or over waiting at Aden for B.N.9 should join B.N.8½. (C.in C. E.I., to F.O.C.R.I.N., 0914 Z/22).
A.P.3.	Arrived Suez a.m./22. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1752/22).

China.

Dominions and Japan.	Asking for information re return of Dominion Forces in event of war with Japan. (C.in C. China to Admty., 0759 Z/22).
CRICKET TARANTULA	Your 0447/6. To be sailed when ready for Mediterranean and East Indies respectively. (D. of P. to C.in C. China. 1359/22).
Air Strength.	Commenting on signals A.752 of 15/10 from A.O.C. and 554 from C.in C. China, re figure of strength in aircraft and conversations with N.E.I. representatives. (Air Ministry 1155/22 to H.Q., Far East).
Shipping, Japan.	Cancel my 0445/6, 0449/6 and 0523/7. Policy to be adopted by British and Allied shipping in Area 4 (a) under present conditions, (b) if war with Japan appears probable, (c) if war with Japan appears inevitable. (C.in C. China, 0813 Z/22).
Use of Gas by Japan.	In view of widespread use by Japan, we should be in a position to retaliate should gas be used against Malaya. Proposals. (G.O.C. Malaya to W.O. 1852/22).

MOST SECRET.

22.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

COMORIN. To be sailed for Halifax when ready. (D.O.D.(H) to C.in C. Rosyth, 1842/22).

Bermuda. Contraband Control. In view of calling at Bermuda of Japanese ships for examination, propose Bermuda be made a minor contraband control base. Governor concurs. (C.in C. A. W.I.,1231/22).

Navigation Lights, Shipping. Admty. 1201/16. Request confirmation that instruction should apply to Allied ships. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 0850/22).

BRADFORD. Your 1402/22 to R.A. 3 B.S. only. Both aircraft returned without sighting BRADFORD after searching track 75 miles wide from St. John's N.F. to depth of 240 miles. You should proceed N. Eastward during the night turning to continue search at daylight and thence returning to Halifax. BRADFORD may have no engine room defects and be following remaining destroyer. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1721/22, to MONTCLARE)

Patrol to Intercept HELGOLAND. My 1441 re patrol of approaches to Colombia to capture German ship HELGOLAND. Close Puerto Colombia during daylight hours 23/10 in order to ensure being sighted but keep outside territorial waters. Leave patrol after dark October 23rd and proceed Curacao. (C.in C. A.W.I.) 1302/2 to VAN KINSBERGEN).

Australia.

Suspicious Vessel. My 0847 Z/21. On present information, probably no hostile vessel was sighted. (A.C.N.B., 0204/22).

U.S.6. PERTH escorting U.S.6 (QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA, MAURETANIA) left R.V. in Bass Strait 21/10 for Fremantle. (A.C.N.B., Melbourne, 0220 Z/22).
Route and details. (A.C.N.B. 0310 Z/22).

MOST SECRET.

22.10.1940.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ANNELIESE ESSBERGER KULMERLAND.

Your 1635/21 states ANNELIESE ESSBERGER has crew seven ships on board including that of s.s. BIBURY. BIBURY sailed Milford Haven 28/8 due Buenos Ayres 1/10 she may have been sunk by raider about 9/9.
ANNALIESE ESSBERGER is believed to have sailed from Kobe 10/10 in company with KULMERLAND. They may be prison and supply ships but it is unlikely that either has crew of BIBURY on board. Request further details as to reliability of source your information. (D.D.I.C. 1647/22.).

GERMANIA.

Indications preparing to leave in near future. (Consul, Ponta Delgada, 1245/22).

MOST SECRET.

22.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TODARO	Teneriffe report states appears to be preparing to sail from territorial waters. (F.O.C.N.A. 1233/22).
Unnamed vessel.	Italian Merchant Vessel name unknown left Genoa 0700/21 for Barcelona. May change flag en route. Time of passage expected four to five days. Cargo includes aeroplane parts. Source Italian via Polish Legation which assesses source very highly indeed. My grading B three. (N.A. Madrid 2022/22).

MOST SECRET.

22nd.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Night Attacks.

Recent reports indicate that night attacks may be made on convoys by two or more U boats acting in cooperation, first attack being designed to draw off escort. Subsequent attacks being carried out on surface from short range, probably from inside convoy.
(C.in C. W.A., 1835/22).

KABALO. (sunk 15/10)

My 1803/17. This loss is now known to be due to Italian U/B. (D.D.I.C.1844/22).

Portuguese naval authorities report that Italian Submarine who sank Belgian steamer KABALO 15/10 500 miles south west of Azores picked up one boat's crew on 17/10 transferring them afterwards to fishing vessel near Azores 20/10. (2 dead). Other boat saved by Belgian steamer PANAMA. (N.A. Lisbon, 1525/22).

SHIRAK (torpedoed, 19/10).

British, 6023 tons. Torpedoed 2245/19, 57° N., 16.35 W. Ship on fire, books in safe, vessel not seen to sink. Struck by one torpedo on starboard side. Neither submarine nor torpedo seen. Crew landed Belfast today in BLACKFLY. No casualties or missing. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1805/22).

Submarines Reported.

1242. D.F. U/B may be about 100 miles N.W. by N. of Cape Wrath probably homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1325/22).

0930) 1115) Submarine sighted 0830 G.M.T./22 in 38.04 N., 25.45 W. and at 1015 G.M.T. in 38.04 N., 26.02 W., steering N. Grading A.1, authority Captain of Port. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1239/22) (F.O.C.N.A., 2220/22 to ALCANTARA).

1652. D.F., probably 2 U-boats 47° to 48° N., 6° 30' to 8° W. (V.A.S., 1742/22).

1416. 54.30 to 55.30 N., 15° - 17° W. position indefinite. (D.S. 414).

1525. 59° to 60° N., W. of 20° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 414).

2116. About 120' S.W. of Fastnet, position indefinite. (D.S. 414).

2226. About 90' S.E. of Fastnet, position indefinite. (D.S. 414).

1910. 47° to 48° N., about 5° W., position indefinite (D.S. 414).

1115. 38.04 N., 26.02 W., course N., probably Italian U/B. (D.S. 414).

/Estimated U/B dispositions ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian - No news.
German - Situation obscure; probabilities are:-
1 or possibly 2 due Lorient to-night.
2 due Lorient to-morrow night.
1 or possibly 2 S.W. of W. of Ireland bound northwards.
As regards further north:-
1 may be in about 59 degs. N. and W. of 2^{0} degs. W.
1 may be some 60 degs. S.W. of Rockall.
3 more in N.W. Approaches or further W. whereabouts unknown.
(D.D.I.C. 1236/22.).

MOST SECRET (29)

War Diary

23.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Patrol East of Shetlands	Force E.(SOMALI, MATABELE and PUNJABI) last night patrolled eastward of the Shetlands
Search by Home Fleet Units	the enemy having shown marked interest in the Shetlands yesterday. From daylight today aircraft of R.N.A.S. co-operated in search for homeward bound U-Boats between Muckle Flugga and Port Authur. There were further indications of enemy air reconnaissance over the Shetlands this morning, and reconnaissance aircraft were also active over Scapa.
Operation D.N.	C.S. 15 in NAIAD with BONAVENTURE left Rosyth this morning to raid shipping near Egersund.
Operation D.N.U.	Force E proceeded for an offensive sweep off Stadlandet.
Enemy Intelligance	There were indications this forenoon that an important movement, in which an 8 inch cruiser was possibly involved, was taking place from Northern Norway to the Skagerrak. Two groups were sent to investigate. Group one consisting of ARETHUSA, NORFOLK and SOUTHAMPTON proceeded towards Stadlandet. Group Two consisting of the battle cruisers, HOOD and REPULSE, DIDO, PHOEBE and 5 destroyers proceeded towards Obrestad. SEAWOLF and O 24 were ordered to withdraw their patrols about 18 miles off the Norwegian Coast.
Dover Patrol	Dover Patrol was cancelled this evening owing to fog.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Owing to adverse weather conditions all operations by Bomber Command last night were cancelled or postponed.

Ships at Ostend and 3 motor vessels, possibly E-Boats, 10 miles off Walcheren were attacked today. Results were not observed.

Coastal Command

Four Blenheims successfully attacked Lorient last night.

Today, two Beauforts on offensive patrol attacked a westbound convoy consisting of 9 merchant vessels and 3 escort vessels, 5 miles North of Schiermonnikoog.
Each aircraft released a torpedo. One vessel of 4000 tons and another of 2000 tons were hit. One was seen to be down by the stern, whilst the decks of the other were awash.

Special reconnaissances were made of the Norwegian Coast between Lister and Trondheim Fiord this afternoon. 2 merchant vessels of 10000 tons were sighted leaving Bergen in a north westerly direction, and 3 smaller merchant ships were seen near Lister.

Enemy Air Activity

Shetlands and Scapa see Home Commands, Force E.

Aberdeen trawler H E STROUD was unsuccessfully bombed this evening in the approaches to Aberdeen.

SS EMPIRE ABILITY was damaged by a near miss p.m. today whilst lying atGarsloch, Clyde.

SS CRAIGANARRAN was attacked and slightly damaged 23 miles South of Kinsale.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Plymouth was closed from 0106 to 1058 today on account of suspected magnetic mining. 3 mines were cut off Dover yesterday.

Mines were found today off Hartlepool and Milford Haven.

East Indies

There was an air raid on Port Sudan this morning, but no material damage was done.

3 Blenheims today attacked the main quays and destroyer base at Massawa, and listening posts at Mersa Taclai and Mersa Deresa.

MOST SECRET

23.10.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE Signal — At 1400/23. (D.C. 1417/23)

Nore Command Notice for Steam — Air R/C cancelled owing to fog. Steam to be kept at short notice until 0900/23. (C. in C., Nore, 0509/23 to F.O.I.C., Humber, etc.,)

Starting today available cruisers, destroyers, corvettes, and fleet minesweepers in harbour are to be at the following notice for steam:-
From 0830 to 2000 2½ hours
From 2000 to 0830 ½ hour
Duty destroyers by day are to be half an hour's notice as follows:-
Humber one, Harwich one, Sheerness two.
Cancel my 1035/12/9. (C. in C., Nore, 1119/23 to Command)

Policy

Western Command Telephone — Request direct telephone communication with new Sub-Area H.Q. at Port Merion. Western Command concur. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1137/23 to Adty.)

Faroes. Examination Trawlers — My 0218/31/8. All ships passing Skopen or Hesto Fiords should be examined. To enable this to be done, request you maintain a total of 3 instead of 2 A/S Trawlers in the Faroes. (A.C.N.S. H. 1152/23 to A.C.O.S)

Movements

COMORIN — Adty. 1842/22. Will be ready to leave Tyne 29/10. Request H.F. Destroyer Escort (C. in C., Rosyth 1241/23 to C. in C., H.F)

Portsmouth — Movements for night 23/24. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1403/23)

NIGERIA } NEWCASTLE } — Your 1002/23. Approved for NIGERIA to relieve NEWCASTLE at Plymouth. Request you arrange with C. in C., W.A. and signal proposed date of exchange. (A.C.N.S. H. 1604/23 to C. in C., H.F.)

/GLASGOW.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

GLASGOW
BERWICK

Following additional ammunition to be embarked before sailing, but sailing not to be delayed by this. (A.C.N.S. H. 1614/23 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Escort Group Allocations

My 2101/12 and 1457/14. Following Destroyers, Corvettes and A/S Trawlers are to be allocated to Escort Groups as follows (C. in C., W.A., 1721/23 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

Operations

Iceland

Sailed ARGUS, HURRICANE, BEAGLE, ACHATES in accordance with my 1504/22. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 0415/23 to Adty.)

Force E.

My 1218/22. C. in C., H.F. 2244/21 passed to Force E before sailing. Position of SEAWOLF and Submarine (F.O.C. I. B.C.S. 1041/23 to Force E.)

Norwegian Coast Operation

Adty's 1157/23. (See Enemy Intelligence)
Proceed in two Groups.
Group 1, consisting of ARETHUSA, NORFOLK, and SOUTHAMPTON, to proceed towards Stadlandet. Group 2, consisting of Battle Cruisers, DIDO, PHEOBE, and all available Destroyers to proceed towards Obrestad. (C. in C., H.F., 1249/23 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S)

C.S. 15 projected movements are: 58° 17' N., 1° E at 1800/23, 58° 40' N., 3° E., close Norwegian Coast in latitude Egars, and withdrew through B to 57° 40' N., 0° 55' E., at 0845/24 (C. in C., H.F., 1347/23 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.)

F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 1217/22. Withdrawal course is to be along latitude 62° 10' N., F.O.C. 2nd C.S. on reaching 62° N., is to turn to 265° if no further information of enemy available. (C. in C., H.F. 1419 and 1638/23 to Capt. D. 6.)

/My 1249.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norwegian Coast Operation, Contd.

My 1249. Group 2 is to keep North of 58° 50' N., and, if no enemy information available, is to withdraw to westward along that latitude at 0200/24 or when reaching 4° E. whichever is the earlier. (C. in C., H.F. 1427/23 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.)

If no further information received by 1000/24 D. 6. act in accordance with B.C'1's 1217/22 and remainder return to their bases. (C. in C., H.F., 2331/23 to B.C.1)

Dover Patrol

Cancelled owing to thick weather. Return to harbour. (C. in C., Nore, 1651/23 to WALPOLE, VESPER)

Submarines

PORPOISE

To leave patrol after dark 24/10. R.V. with SURPRISE. Orders. (Capt S. 2. 0946/23)

TUNA

Route (Capt. S.2. 0951/23)

UNIQUE

Escorted by Trawler HAARLEM from Campbeltown to Lizard. Arrangements (S.2. 0953/23 and 0511/24)

SEAWOLF

To leave patrol after dark 24/10 for Rosyth. Route (Capt S. 3. 1057/23) Proceed to patrol about 18 miles off Norwegian coast. (V.A.S. 1318/23)

STURGEON

To leave Rosyth p.m./26 to carry out patrol in Skagerrak..

SUNFISH

To leave Rosyth 26/10 to carry out anti-U-Boat patrol N.N.E. of Shetlands. Arrangements (V.A(S) 1101/23)

UTMOST
UPRIGHT

Subject to Adty. approval, to carry out anti U-Boat patrol up to 48 hours in (positio (V.A.S. 1244/23) Proposed patrol approved (D.O.D. (H)2116/23)

Positions & Movements

0700/24. (V.A.S. 1718/23)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Ostend — Docks and shipping attacked on 23/10. (H.Q.B.C. 0115/24)

Mobile Balloon Barrage — A.M. 1919/19/10. Owing to increased number of ships in next C.W.Convoy it is desired to sail 7 Mobile Balloon Barrage vessels in this convoy. Request your concurrence. (D. of L.D. 1312/23 to Balloon Command)

A/S Patrol — Cancel my 1346/14 and my 1602/19. Following cross-over A/S Patrol will be flown daily by Hudson aircraft, four circuits being flown of following area. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1750/23 to Ships)

Proposed Bombing of Enemy Coastal Batteries — Request bombing of Coastal Batteries between Calais and Ambleteuse from 1930 to 2100/24. during passage of Convoy C.W. through Straits of Dover. (D.O.D.(H) 2207/23 to Air Ministry)

Enemy Air Activity

Shetlands — My 1801/22. Further indications of enemy Air R/C over Shetlands Area at 0844 and 0944 today. (D.D.I.C. 1023/23)

CRAIGANARRAN — Attacked with M.G. and cannon at 1800/17 when 23 miles south of (? Kinsale) one slight casualty and slight damage to ship. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1150/23 to Adty.)

Scapa — At 1110/23 Enemy R/C Aircraft were active over Scapa. (D.D.I.C. 1216/23 to C. in C., H.F.)

SOMALI — One aircraft shadowing me. My position 61° N 0° 30' W., (SOMALI 1249/23) Still being shadowed. Two aircraft. My position 61° 22' N., 0° 35' W., (SOMALI 1555/23)

Convoy AGENT — One aircraft shadowing me in 51° 49' N., 1° 32' E., (VEGA 1457/23)

Convoy LABEL — One aircraft shadowing Convoy. My position 57° 45' N., 0° 34' E., bearing 035° distance 27 miles. (NAIAD 1700/23)

CONAKRIAN — British, 4876 tons. Damaged by aerial Torpedo on 20/10. Dragged on shore one mile south of Bridge of Don at 2200/22. Crew landed 0500/23 by lifeboat. Towing and salvage will continue when weather permits. (N.O.I.C.Aberdeen 1030/23 to Adty)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Plymouth — Cancel my 0106/23. Port Open. (C. in C., W.A. -1058/23)

Dover — 3 mines cut p.m./22 in Q.Z.S. 220. Sweeping continues. (V.A.Dover 1241/23)

Tyne — Military Roker Battery reports mine exploded 089° 2000 yards Roker Battery Sunderland 1401. P.W.S.S. Sunderland give position as 088° 1.5 miles P.W.S.S.Sunderlan. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1538/23)

Hartlepool — One mine exploded spntaneously 55° 2 cables approx. Heugh Lt. at 1538 (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1555/23)

Harwich — Intend sweep F.S. and F.N. through swept water tomorrow with 2 Fleet Sweepers and to start proposed clearance in vicinity 54 A Buoy Friday of Saturday weather permitting. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1656/23)

148 Q.Z.S. Fleet Sweepers swept F.S. and F.N. Convoy through between 540 Buoy and sunk light vessel. 2 sweeps parted 1 mine found in sweep "HARRIER" cruising till daylight with mine still in sweep.
4 ships patrolling north of "Z" with orders to sweep "F.S". Convoy down A.M. to-morrow Thursday. (F.O.i/c Harwich 2058/23)

Operation B.S. 43 — Intend TEVIOT BANK and PLOVER to sail from Spurn Point at 0730/26. Laying will begin 2330/26. (S.O.Minelayers, Immingham 1746/23)

Milford Haven — One red magnetic mine detonated 25 yards 188° -from No 3 buoy at 1105. Mine was laid at 0625 and position was known through the watchfulness of the lookout on board French Tanker SAINTE TONGE alongside which ship it fell. (F.O.i/c Milford Haven, 1800/23)

Enemy Intelligence

Norwegian Coast Enemy Movement — There are indications that an important movement is taking place from Northern Norway to Skaggerak. Unit or Units concerned are probably in Trondhjem area this forenoon. It is possible an 8" cruiser may be involved (V.C.N.S. 1157/23 to C. in C., H.F.)

/W/T.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Norwegian Coast Enemy Movement Contd.	W/T intelligence indicates that movement continued to the Southward. This has been passed to C.S. 2. (A.C.N.S. H. 2117/23 to C. in C., H.F.)
Bay of Biscay	At 0658 in 47° 24' N., 5° W. one M/V 2000 to 3000 tons fully illuminated. (Air Ministry 1320/23 to Adty)
Hjelte Fiord	2 large M/V's proceeding M/V's proceeding to sea through Fiord in 60° 37' N., 4° 57' E in N.W.ly dorection. Aircraft report. (C. in C., Rosyth 1544/23 to Ships)
Obrestad	3 M/V's about 1000 tons seen in vicinity at 1520 and 1530. Particulars. (C. in C., Rosyth 1918 and 2218/23 to C.S. 15)
North Sea	Aircraft report at 1626, 9 M/V's in 53° 34' N 6° 8' E., steering 260° at slow speed. (V.A.S. 1946/23 to S/M H. 49)
Norwegian Coast	Result of R/C. No shipping seen between 63°N and 60° 18' N., Coastal traffic 6 small M/V's between 63° N., and Trondeim. No warships sighted. (C. in C., Rosyth 2154/23 to Capt D. 6., and 2226/23 to B.C.1. etc.,)
Walcheren	At 1433, 10 miles West of Walcheren, 3 small motor vessels possible E-Boats heading east. (H.Q.B.C. 0115/24)
Ostend	At 1546, one 4000 ton M/V, 20 small craft, and several small ships at fishing wharves (H.Q.B.C. 0115/24)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.10.1940
Wednesday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

WAR NAWAB — Your 1634/22. Owing to defects, ship unable to sail fro Southend for routeing to Portsmouth. (Commodore Sheerness 1120/23 to C. in C., Nore.)

STORSTAD — Norwegian Tanker, 8998 tons. Left Miri on 30/9 for Melbourne. Not arrived. (A.C.N.B. 1355/23 to S.O.I. Singapore)

HERO — H.M.Trawler. LADY BRASSEY sailed at 1142/23 to help HERO on South Goodwin Sands and returned at 1501 with HERO in tow. (V.A.Dover 1519/23 to Adty.)

HUNTER — First party of four survivors of HUNTER travelling as tradesmen leave Stockholm 25th due Istanbul 30th. It is hoped to evacuate a similar party every week until all 43 ratings have left Sweden. Request N. Attache Istanbul be instructed as to where these ratings shall be routed on arrival and that DRAKE be informed. (N.A.Stockholm, 2544/23 to Admty.)

LORD IRWIN — Your 1403/23. Sailing of Tug SECURITY towing LORD IRWIN postponed. Propose sailing tow at 0730/24. (F.O.I.C. 1629/23. to C. in C., Portsmouth)

MALCOLM — My 1738/22. Sailing delayed by defective D.C. (C. in C., Nore, 1658/23 to F.O.I.C. Harwich)

MARGAREE — Your 2020/22. Failed to sink Destroyer. Left her on fire settling slowly to stern Survivors names. (PORT FAIRY 1154/23 to Admiral, Devonport)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

ST CLAIR
VESLEKAKI

Reference A.M. 1723/22 inpection of ST. CLAIR shows accommodation to be sufficient. VESLEKAKI not required Naval service Iceland. Undesirable this unsatisfactory crew return here. (N.O.i/c Iceland 1507/23)

Convoys

H.X. 80

No met. My position CASTLETON in company. (FLEUR DE LYS, 1200/23) Your 1200. Estimate position H.X. 80. (C. in C., W.A. 1920/23 to FLEUR DE LYS, CASTLETON)

O.B. 233

Amending 1740/22, re A/S trawlers for (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1254/23)

E.N. 11.

H.M.T's HUGH WALPOLE, SOUTHERN WAVE, (N.C.S.O Methil 1116/23) E.N. 11. returned owing to stress of weather. Cancel my 1117/23 to A.C.W.A. re. and my 1116/23 (N.C.S.O. Methil 1441/23)

S.C. 10.

Cancel my 1621/21 and substitute following route. (D.T.D. 1329/23)

MOST SECRET.

23.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

French Convoys, Interception.

Your 1320/20. Spanish territorial waters must be respected. French territorial waters may be entered but no action should be taken till BARHAM has been undocked. In initial attempt at bringing in a convoy destroyers only should be used and action should only be taken if destroyers represent overwhelming strength. (1st Lord and 1 S.L. to F.O.C.N.A. 0056/23).

DRAGON PENNLAND.

My 1031/21. DRAGON leaving Freetown for Takoradi a.m./23 to escort PENNLAND to Bathurst. BELGRAVIAN also proceeding to Takoradi to transport lorries which cannot be taken in PENNLAND and will afterwards proceed to Duala in accordance with Admty. 2109/15 when arrangements with Cameroons Govt. has been made. (C.in C. S.A., to Admty., 0131/23)

Libreville DELHI

Your 0950/22 not to C.in C. S.A. and Admiralty. Leclerc delighted and determined to succeed at all costs and intends to remain until Libreville is taken. His only concern is that expedition should not fail or turn back soon and asks for assurance that you will not withdraw naval force before completion. I have assured him on this point provided no unforeseen naval obstacle intervenes.
(DELHI, 0134/23, to F.O.I.C.S.).

Spears has sent signal direct to War Cabinet supporting French request for DELHI to enter Libreville. (DELHI, 0148/23 to C.S.I., C.in C. S.A., and Admty.)
Expect to arrive position B 1800/23 (DELHI, 0153/23).

Admty. 1856/22. It is clear that active participation of DELHI is an ingredient essential to the success of this plan and without her they will not continue.
Am remaining at Duala to examine pland and will report fully on return tomorrow.
(C.S.1, 1825 A/23, to Admty.)

Gaboon Campaign.

Progress of land operation in Gaboon 22/10. Northern Force arrived Mitjik, Southern Force bombarded Lambarene today, tanks expected to be in position tomorrow 23/10.
(DELHI, 0205/23, to F.O. 1 C.S. etc.)

French Convoys, Interception.

Your 0056/23. After interception the French Force may despatch surface and Air Forces from Oran or Casablanca depending on where interception has taken place to attempt release of Convoy before latter can reach Gibraltar.

/ To guard against ....

MOST SECRET.

23.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (Continued)

French Convoys, Interception. To guard against this contingency I consider the full support of Force H will be necessary.
BARHAM requires 4 days after undocking to complete outfit ammunition and provisions. Consider any action contemplated should be deferred until she is ready. In view of probable retaliation by French Air Force on Gibraltar which may well lead to actions between surface vessels intend to defer embarkation of additional ammunition in BARHAM (Admty. 1628/22) until situation is clarified.
(S.O. Force H., 1517/23 to Admty.)

French Troops for Dakar. Three Liners MARRAKECH, SINAIA, MARECHAL LYAUTEY, arrived Dakar 20/10 with full complement of troops and ammunition. Still Dakar 21/10. Reported returning soon to Casablanca. Weekly movement of Troop-ships reported between Casablanca and Dakar. Since interception of INDOCHINOIS troops from Dakar for other parts of French West Africa reported going overland via Bamako. (Actg. Govr., Sierra Leone, 1735/23, to Admty.)

BARHAM. Your 1140 Z/8. What was the reason for BARHAM running short of fuel? (1 S.L. to BARHAM, 1745/23).

Exchange of Prisoners, Dakar excludes Free French. My 2001/28/9, 1133/15/10 and 2015/22/10. Following is translation of telegram received from Boisson, Governor-General Dakar. (Begins). French Government informs me that proposal for exchange of prisoners could only apply to British nationals. Grateful if you would inform me of your intentions in this matter. (Ends). Matter was first raised with ref. to De Gaulle's (?men) only (my 2001/28/9 and my 1133/15/10). De Gaulle's (?reply to) Governor Duala's 0909/20/10 suggested settlement "without distinction for Free French and Englishmen who took part in common operations".
Consider exchange of AJAX crew should not be negotiated without Free French as well as British being returned. Presume all further semi-negotiations will be with French Admiralty direct through N.A. Madrid (vide your 2026/14) Shall I inform Boisson to this effect?
(C.in C. S.A. 1341/23).

MASSILIA. Your 1902/21. French N.A. should be informed may sail without further delay. (Route). Essential Admty. should be informed when vessel sails and when expected off N.Ireland. (Head of M. to N.A. Madrid, 1243/23).

MOST SECRET.

23.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DRAGON — Left 0600/23 in accordance C.in C. S.A. 0131/23 (visit to Takoradi). (S.O.I., Freetown, 0951 N/23).

Overdue Shipping. — My 0955/22. JOTUNFJELL arrived Durban. (S.O.I., Capetown, 0915/23).

ANTONIOS CHANDRIS — Greek stopped by enemy raider at 1945/8/9 in 11.25 N., 34.10 W. Description. Armament believed to be four 5.9" guns, 2 forward, 2 aft. (C.in C. S.A. 0235/23).

BULOLO Search for Raider. — A.C.W.A's 1651/12. Pass through F.33, search G.33, H.33, examine St. Paul's Rock, Fernando de Novonha, returning to Freetown (date). Raiders reported active in G. 33 September, H.33 October. (C.in C. S.A. to BULOLO, 1231 N/23).

CARNARVON CASTLE. — Sail CARNARVON CASTLE 24/10 to arrive Takoradi (date). CARNARVON CASTLE is to escort WESTERN BANN to Cape and possibly to vicinity of Durban. (C.in C. S.A. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1807 N/23).

Troop Transport. — Your 2210/18. As possibility of providing alternative ships for trooping Durban to Mombasa is under consideration, request you advise what is total carrying capacity required for this service. (D. of S.T., 2211/23 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

My 0853 Z/23. From enquiry in ORMONDE now in Durban, vessels identified as DAHLIA and MYRICA (ex Italian SISTIANA). (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 2242B/23).

Suspicious Ships. — Following from DURHAM CASTLE via Jacobs Radio. 2 steamers acting suspiciously close to me here, 29.34 S., 31.48 E. (ends). Am arranging air reconnaissance (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0853 Z/23).

Mediterranean.

Spain. — Bi-Weekly Report. Visit of Franco and Suner to Hitler. (N.A. Madrid, 2001/23).

Benghazi. — Approach routes to Benghazi now known to be A. Details. (C.in C. Med. to REGULUS and OSIRIS, 1031/23).

Invasion of Greece. — Repeating Minster Washington's 1739/42 re date of expected invasion, etc. Steps being taken to verify source. (D.N.I. to C.in C. Med. 1327/23).

Greece and Turkey. — Asking what assistance can be given locally to strengthen Greek and Turkish

/ will .....

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Greece and Turkey. (contd.)

will and stability to resist. (1 S.L. to C.in C. Med., 1724/23) (see Med. Volume).

Coming Operations.

Assuming Operation Uniform cancelled and White Collar deferred (date), it would apparently be your intention to put a convoy into Malta (date) in accordance you 1421/14. Would it then be possible for BARHAM to transport personnel to Malta. If so, should like to use BERWICK and GLASGOW for escorting convoys round Cape (dates of arrival Suez). (1 S.L. to C.in C. Med., 1849/23).

East Indies.

Offensive Plans.

From O.C. Military Mission 106. On no account should Lieut.-Com. Cardelloyan commence or plan any offensive operations until after arrival of O.C. Military Mission 106. Equipment of dhows with auxiliary engines giving speed of 4 knots or over very desirable if these can be obtained or if car engines can be converted for purpose. Such engines unobtainable at home. (C.in C. S.A. 0755/23 to S.N.O. Aden).

Dhows Traffic.

C.in C. Red Sea Force 1541/22. Intend action be taken in accordance with my 0616/1 as from 0001 Z/26/10 taking action against dhows carrying cargoes Italian E. Africa. (C.in C. E.I. 0822/23).

Greek Shipping Madagascar.

Your 1058/11. No special significance attached to concentration at Lourenco Marques. Madagascar not at present treated as being under enemy control, but extension of Navicert system to Island is under consideration. At present, therefore, contraband and export control cannot be exercised and mails cannot be intercepted. (Hd. of M. to C.in C. E.I. 1933/23).

Convoys.

My 0954/8. Red Sea Convoys expected to pass Aden as follows (dates.) (C.in C. E.I. 1122/23).

Port Sudan Raid.

Two S.79's raided Port Sudan 0730 Z/23. Approx. 15 H.E. and incendiary bombs in neighbourhood of quay, no material damage, 10 natives killed, approx 20 injured. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, 1555 Z/23) Confirmed casualties now 22 killed, 11 wounded. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 1200 Z/24).

/ Evasion of blockade. .....

MOST SECRET.

23.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

Evasion of blockade. There is (?definite) evidence that mails and goods including silk parachutes are being shipped to enemy countries via Persian Gulf. Request Custom and Censorship Authorities may keep a special look out for such evidence in Japanese ships and mails, and that any arising from mails be immediately reported with a view to diversion of suspected ships to British port for examination.
(C.in C. E.I. 1144 Z/23. to F.O.C. R.I.N.)

China.

Defence Conference. Wider appreciation, to cover requirements of Australian and New Zealand representatives.
(C.in C. China, 0745 Z/23, to Admty.)

Air Defence. Reply to Air Ministry 1155/22. Emphasise R.A.F. have to compete not only with Japanese Air Force but Japanese Navy. Are aware Dutch intend destroy oil supplies if unavoidable, but point out disastrous effect this might have on fuel supplies in Far East and Australia and New Zealand.
(H.Q., Far East to Air Min., 1500/23).

Shipping. Your 0317/19. Jardines intend sailing following within next few days. Question re insurance. (N.O.I.C. Hong Kong to C.in C. China, 0745/23).

America and West Indies.

CAMERON Distillers in order and available for duty.
(N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F., 1201/23).

BUXTON. Out of quarantine from noon today.
(N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F., 1201/23).

Shipping Lights. Your 0850/22, re burning navigation lights. Allied authorities are being informed and will issue similar instructions. (D.T.D., 1219/23, to S.O.I., Jamaica).

French Repatriations. Following from N.A. Madrid. (Begins). French Adty. state it has arranged that four French ships are to sail from U.S. to U.K. to repatriate French naval ratings to France. Request that New York representative of Min. of Shipping and H.M. Ambassador Washington may be advised. MICHIGAN will not sail but will be replaced by SAN FRANCISCO. Authority has now been given to her departure and for that of OREGON, WINNIPEG, and WYOMING. (Ends.). Request that you will take necessary action. (Head of M. 1652/23 to N.A. Washington).

/ FORT DE FRANCE .....

MOST SECRET.

23.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Continued).

FORT DE FRANCE.

FORT DE FRANCE sailed for Martinique most secretly after dark 15/10. Sailing successfully concealed from all our reporting agencies. Endeavouring preclude possibility in the future.
(N.C.S.O. New York, 1553/23).

Australia.

STORSTAD.

Norwegian, 8998 tons. From Mivi on 30/9 to Melbourne, not arrived. (A.C.N.B. 1335/23).

MOST SECRET.

23.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

CORDELIA.
ARCADIA.
ITHAKA.
SALZBURG.

Departure CORDELIA ARCADIA and ITHAKA German in ballast for Russia. Arrival of SALZBURG German from Istanbul with 2074 tons of General cargo. (Macrae, Galati 1121/23).

USARAMO

Left Vigo probably very early this morning. (Consul, Vigo, 0826/23). (D.D.I.C., 1242/23, V.A.S. 1416/23 to Submarines Area B., F.O.C.N.P., 1449/23). My 0826. USARAMO believed bound for Corunna but no confirmation yet. (Consul Vigo, 1825/23).

ACHILLES.

Completed boiler repairs and has left berth to anchor in bay. (Consul, Vigo, 1825/23).

SPEZIA.

Has signed on Spanish crew under German officers and will sail any moment. (N.A. Madrid, 0959/23) Left Valencia between sunset and 2200/22, destination probably Genoa. (S.O.I., Gib., 1431/23).

Tankers.

German tankers seen off Pasajes 15/10 and 16/10. Polish source (B.3.). N.A. Madrid, 1140/23).

ANNELIESE ESSBERGER
KULMERLAND.

Your 1635/21. ANNELIESE ESSBERGER sailed from Kobe 9/10 now confirmed she returned to her moorings 11/10. KULMERLAND sailed at the same time but has not returned. (D.D.I.C. 1313/23, to N.A. Buenos Aires).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

FRANCA FASSIO.

"Popolo D'Italia" 9/10 acknowledged the sinking of an 1800 ton Italian Steamer in Western Mediterranean. This would appear to confirm the sinking of the FRANCA FASSIO early in October off Savona (see 16/10) (D.S. 415).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

FORT DE FRANCE.

See America and West Indies.

MOST SECRET.

23.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Search and Rescue work.

My position 1300 G.M.T., 53.27 N., 23.55 W., 242°, 15. Searched 20 miles round 53.47 N., 23.01 W., only sighted one lifebuoy. (LACONIA, 1625/23).

Your 1500. Proceed to Londonderry and land survivors. (F.O.I.C. Greenock to tug SEAMAN. 1755/23).

BILDERDIJK (HX 79)
UGANDA "
LOCH LOMOND "
MATHERAN "
SANDSEND "
JANUS. (OB. 228)

Taken over 39 survivors from BILDERDIJK, 37 from UGANDA, 40 from LOCH LOMOND, 72 from MATHERAN. HIBISCUS has 34 from SANDSEND and 33 from JANUS. (JASON to C.in C. Rosyth, 2301/23). Above survivors were landed at Methil by JASON and HIBISCUS. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1516/24).

ATHELMONARCH (HX 79).

Arrived in Mersey 23/10. (D.S. 415).

TRITON

Arrived in Clyde 23/10. (D.S. 415).
(All torpedoed 19/10).

Torpedoed in S.C.7. 18-19/10.

FISCUS

4815 tons. Survivors said to have been picked up. (D.S. 415).

SEDGEPOOL

5556 tons. Survivors said to have been picked up. (D.S. 415).

THALIA.

Greek, 5875 tons. Survivors said to have been picked up. (D.S. 415).

SHEKATIKA

Since sunk (D.S. 415).

Submarines Reported.

1105. 57° - 57.30'N., 18° - 20° W., position indefinite, (D.S. 414).

0043. 47.30 to 48.30, 9° - 11° W., position indefinite (D.S. 414).
(V.A.S., 0946/23).

1139. D.F. probable U/B, 61° N., 0° 30' E.
(D.D.I.C. 1218/23.

1205. D.F. 50° to 51° N., 10° to 12° W., unreliable fix. (C.in C. W.A., 1243/23).

0930. S/M sighted N. of Ponta da Bretanha, St. Michael.

1315. 0830 G.M.T./23, seen again going north at 1215 (Source A), (Lisbon, 1929/23).

/ Estimated U/B dispositions ....

MOST SECRET.

23.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian — 1 off San Miguel Island Azores 1115/22 moving northwards.

German — 3 or possibly 4 due Lorient some tonight some tomorrow night.
1 S.W. of Ireland moving northwards.
1 W. of Ireland moving northwards.
1 reaching N.W. Approaches from the South.
1 was in about 55° N., 16° W., at 1416/22.
1 was in about 57° to 57° 30' N. 18° to 20°W. at 1105/23.
1 was in about 59° to 60° N; and W. of 20°W. at 1525/22.
Possibly 3 more in N.W. Approaches or farther W.
1 N.E. of Shetlands bound for Norway or Germany.
(D.D.I.C. 1316/23).

MOST SECRET.

(30)

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operations off Norway.

Force E returned to Scapa today having sunk one vessel of 400 tons and seen nothing else except fishing boats.

Group two also returned today.

MENDIP (21st D.F.) damaged.

MENDIP was damaged by explosion of her depth charges whilst exercising in Scapa flow this forenoon.

British Air Activity.

R.A.F. last night attacked docks and shipping at Hook of Holland. One Blenheim attacked Le Havre and 2 Flushing. An attack made by 12 Wellingtons on the docks at Emden was apparently most successful.

Ostend, a convoy 3 miles off Zeebrugge and merchant vessels off Ijmuiden (the latter unsuccessful) were attacked during the day.

Air reconnaissance of the coast of Norway from Trondheim to Lister was flown at dawn today.

Enemy Air Activity.

S.S. BALTRADER was unsuccessfully bombed this morning about 250 miles west of Ireland.

Mining.

It is thought that enemy aircraft were probably engaged in minelaying last night in the Thames Estuary and between the Wash and Firth of Forth.

The Humber was closed at 0156 on account of aircraft minelaying, being reopened at 1125.

Liverpool was closed at 0040 on account of suspected aircraft minelaying.

Early this morning Rosyth and Approaches were closed between 2° 52' W. and dockyard but were reopened at 1247. Leith and Granton and approaches were closed. Methil is open.

The Tyne was closed owing to suspected minelaying; sweeping was not possible today on account of the weather.

Four Swordfish of Coastal Command laid mines last night off Ijmuiden.

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Aboukir and Port Said were attacked by enemy aircraft last night. No damage or casualties resulted.
There was an air raid on Alexandria from 0300 to 0430 today, but no naval damage occurred.

East Indies.

Two unidentified enemy aircraft attacked a convoy in Port Sudan harbour today, dropping 12 bombs but causing only negligible damage.

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

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MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 0200/24. (D.C. 0240/24) At 1400/24. (D.C. 1421/24).

Nore Command. Notice for Steam. My 1119/23. Ships not required for duty to-day keep steam at 4 hours notice. MANCHESTER may give night leave. Night leave may also be given as by my 1048/9 amended to read one at Sheerness. (C.in C. Nore 0940/24).

Policy.

Great Yarmouth D.E.M.S. Base. Closing of Base now completed as by T.D./D.E.M.S. 3510/4569, and Staff disposed of as ordered. (D.E.M.S. Yarmouth 1502/24 to D.T.D.)

BATH, CHARLESTOWN, ST.ALBANS, ST.MARYS. Your 1532/17. Ships should be retained at Plymouth until you are satisfied their A/S training sufficiently advanced. Practices can be continued at Port Z.A. (D. A/S W. 1610/24 to C.in C. W.A.).

War Policy. It is intended that the Prime Minister shall hold a meeting of Chiefs of Staff and Commanders in Chief in the near future, Thursday 31st October if convenient, to discuss war policy. The agenda will probably include winter dispositions, a survey of present position and any other points which Cs. in C. wish to bring up. Request you will submit points for discussion for approval for inclusion in agenda. (1st S.L. 2052/24 to C's -in- C.)

Movements.

WIDGEON. Remain with Convoy until WOLSEY rejoins. (C.in C. Nore 1006/24).

BULLDOG. To be sailed for Rosyth A.M./25. (C.in C. H.F. 1017/24 to R.A.D.)

BEAGLE. After arrival of ARGUS request you sail BEAGLE for Scapa. (C.in C. H.F. 1035/24 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

BEVERLEY, BELMONT, BROADWAY. ETA. Belfast 1600. (BEVERLEY 1145/24 to N.O.I.C. Belfast)

MALCOLM. My 1829/22 and your 1358/23. Request MALCOLM be sailed for Londonderry when ready. (C.in C. W.A. 1145/24 to C.in C. Nore.) ETA. Rosyth 0600/25. (Capt. S.3. 2001/24 to WILK).

/ Nore Command .....

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued).

More Command.	Movements to 1200/25. (C.in C. More 1200 and 1444/24).
Portsmouth.	Movements for Night 24/25. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1347/24).
FEARLESS.	To proceed at 1900/25 to Liverpool with moderate dispatch. (C.in C. H.F. 1441/24).
BROKE.	Request report speed 14 knots position at 1445, 53° 50' N., 12° 52' W., course 080° true. (BROKE 1445/24 to C.in C. W.A.)
GLASGOW.	Will probably be required to sail P.M./26. (C.in C. H.F. 1512/24 to C.in C. Rosyth).
Orkneys.	Trawler lines today. (A.C.O.S. 1536/24).
AGAMEMNON) COMORIN)	Request you arrange AGAMEMNON for Rosyth and COMORIN for Halifax to be sailed in company and report to C.in C. H.F. date when both ships ready to sail. (C.in C. Rosyth 1553/24 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).
Western Channel.	Report for Night 24/25. (C.in C. W.A. 1555/24 and 1807 and 1931/24).
SALOPIAN.	Estimated position at 1900/25 is 55° 30' N. 9° 35' W., course 085°, speed 12 knots. (SALOPIAN 1930/24 to C.in C. W.A.)
FOXHOUND.	Passes Flamborough Head 2230/24 northbound. (Capt. S.3. 2001/24 to WILK).
EXMOOR) BLENCATHRA) COTSWOLD) SOUTHDOWN)	When ready for service to be sailed to Scapa to work up. On completion BLENCATHRA to join Portsmouth Command and remainder More. (D.O.D. H. 2155/24 to A.S.C.B.S.)
ARK ROYAL) FEARLESS) FOXHOUND) ISIS)	1. My 0205/18. C.in C. H.F. requested to sail FEARLESS, FOXHOUND, and ISIS to arrive at Liverpool by p.m. 27th. 2. ARK ROYAL escorted by FEARLESS, FOXHOUND, and ISIS is to be sailed from Liverpool on 28/10 to Clyde. 3. Aircraft of ARK ROYAL will be flown during 29/10 after which she should return to Clyde. 4. Further signal will be made as to sailing for Gibraltar. (A.C.N.S. F. 2156/24).
ACHATES) ANTELOPE)	Your 1354/17. Propose ACHATES and ANTELOPE return to your Command. ACHATES due Clyde 25/10. ANTELOPE 25 or 26/10. (C.in C. W.A. 2249/24 to C.in C. H.F.)

/ Force E. .....

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Force E. — Returning to Scapa. Attacked one small vessel about 40⁰ tons in 62⁰ 29' N. 4⁰ (?23') E. Otherwise nothing seen but numerous Fishing-Boats. ETA. 1700. (Capt. D.6. 0630/24 to R.A. 1st B.C.S.)

Group 2. — ETA. in HOOD, with REPULSE, DIDO PHOEBE, and 5 Destroyers, 1200/24. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 0845/24 to A.C.O.S.)

Norwegian Coast Operations. — Sweeps carried out on 23rd and 24th October to the Norwegian Coast between 58⁰ North and 62⁰ 30' North by forces of Home Fleet including battle cruisers and units from four cruiser squadrons resulted in only ship being sighted. This ship which was darkened and of about 400 tons was sunk in position 62⁰ 29' North 04⁰ 23' East by three destroyers of 6th Flotilla. Some enemy activity to and from Stavanger Aerodrome was noted. (C.in C. H.F. 2242/24 to Adty.).

ALERT. — A.L.M. 010327/40 of 3rd October and my 1142/24. C.P.O. having confirmed that this operation can be performed at night shewing shaded lights only for the actual cutting operations on deck, this course is considered preferable in view of inadequate air protection which can be afforded in daylight.
Request you arrange to carry it out during dark hours starting on the first convenient night after arrival of ALERT. (D.O.D. H. 1143/24 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Your 1707/19. ALERT should be docked as soon as possible and then sailed in accordance with my 1757/18. She is required for an operation during the first week of November.
(D.O.D. H. 1142/24 to C.in C. W.A.).

Submarines.

SEAWOLF
0.24 — My 1313/23. 0.24 resume Patrol off Korfs Fiord. SEAWOLF return to Rosyth as by previous orders. (V.A.S. 1040/24).

CACHALOT. — Patrol between 47⁰ 30' N. and 46⁰ 30' N. and 5⁰ 45' W. and 7⁰ W. (Capt. S.2 1509/24)

/ TALISMAN .....

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines (Continued).

TALISMAN. Leave Patrol after dark 26th. Route to within 30 miles of Ushant. Any M/V met by TALISMAN on passage South of 49° N. is to be sunk at sight. R/V with TROUBADOUR 315° Longships Light 5 miles at 0730/29. (Capt. S.2. 1511/24 to S/M's Area B).

STURGEON. (Anti-U-Boat Patrol) V.A.S. 1101/23. Request H.F. Destroyer Escort. No Escort available from R.E.F. (C.in C. Rosyth 1525/24 to C.in C. H.F.) Escort will be provided. (C.in C. H.F. 1936/24 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Positions. For 24 hours at 0700/25. (V.A.S. 1714/24)

SUNFISH. My 1525/24. SLEIPNER will be available for escort for SUNFISH from May Island to Duncansby Head. S.6. is requested to sail SUNFISH independently and to report expected time of arrival off May Island as soon as possible. C.in C. H.F. is requested to arrange for onward escort for SUNFISH from Duncansby Head.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2237/24 to SLEIPNER).

British Air Activity.

Norwegian Coast. Air R/C from Trondheim to Lister being flown today at dawn. (C.in C. Rosyth 0700/24).
R/C Trondheim to Stadlandet not completed owing to clear visibility and insufficient cloud cover. (C.in C. Rosyth 1442/24 to Admty.)

Proposed bombing of Coastal Batteries. Request action on Adty's 1549/16. (Air Ministry 0840/24 to H.Q.B.C.)
Cancel my X.172/24/10. (Air Ministry 1529/24 to Bomber Command) Adty. 2207/23.
Request action be taken for 25/10.
(Air Ministry 1725/24 to Bomber Command).

Seven Mobile Balloon Barrage Vessels with next C.W. Convoy. Your 1312/23. Concur. (H.Q.B.C. 1600/24 to Adty.) Re 1919/19. Balloons up to maximum eight may accompany each convoy. Number to be requested by C.in C. Nore of 30 Group, who will satisfy whenever possible. (H.Q.B.C. 1601/24 to Adty.)

ARGUS. Will embark 12 R.A.F. Hurricanes and 2 Skua A/C from Abbotsinch during stay at Clyde. (D.O.D.H. 1604/24 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

Rosyth Area. Air Escorts for 25/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 1848/24).

/ A/S Patrol. .....

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Continued).

A/S Patrol. Will be flown between Duncansby Head and Cape Wrath throughout daylight tomorrow. (C.in C. Rosyth 2200/24).

Enemy Air Activity.

BALTRADER. British, 1699 tons. Bombed in 53° 50' N. 14° 13' W. (BALTRADER 0759/24) O.K. (Valentia Radio 0831/24).

EMPIRE ABILITY. British, 7803 tons. Damaged by near miss last night. Holed above water. Engines being tried this morning. Ship not leaking. Second Officer dangerously wounded. (P.S.T.O. Clyde 1215/24 to D.S.T., London).

H.E. STROUD. Aberdeen Trawler. Reports attacked by aircraft at 1815/23 between middle and outer Buoys in Approach Channel. 7 Bombs, none exploded. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1221/24 to C.in C. Rosyth.)

F.N. Convoy. Even numbered F.N. Convoy being shadowed by one aircraft in 51° 57' N. 1° 39' E. (F.N. Convoy 1633/24).

Dogger Bank. My 2107/24. German Naval aircraft are operating in Dogger Bank area. (D.D.I.C. 2133/24).

Convoy "PEWIT" Shadowed by one aircraft 51° 17' N. 1° 30'E. (FERNIE 1647/24) Fighters have left for convoy "PEWIT" (Nore W/T 1646/24).

Mining.

Liverpool. Port closed owing to suspected Minelaying by aircraft. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0040/24 to Adty.). Port re-opened. (F.O.I.C.Liverpool 1400/24 to Adty.) Port closed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1945/24 to Adty.)

Humber. Closed. Aircraft minelaying. (F.O.Humber 0156/24 to Adty.). Open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 1125/24 to Adty.)

Sailes Point. West Mersea Coastguard Post reports 10 or 12 Bomb Explosions off Sailes Point at 0410, believed in the water. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0420/24 to C.in C. Nore).

Rosyth, Leith, Granton. Owing to suspected Minelaying, the Port of Rosyth and Approaches are closed between 2° 52' W. and Dockyard. Ports of Leith and Granton and Approaches are closed. (C.in C. Rosyth 0421/24 to Adty.). Port of Rosyth is now open (C.in C. Rosyth 1247/24).

/ Leith and Granton .....

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued).

Leith and Granton open.
Navigational precautions. (C.in C. Rosyth 1829/24 to Adty.).

Methil. Port open. (C.in C. Rosyth 0421/24 to Admty.)

Milford Haven. An apparent accoustic mine exploded at 0930 today Thursday by Lairds Isle in approximate position 4 cables 245 degrees from number 3 buoy Milford Haven fifty yards on port quarter. Speed of ship twelve knots. No helm being used at time of explosion. Mine apparently laid at the same time as magnetic mine reported in my 1800/23. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1043/24 to Adty.)

Deep Minefield in N.W. Approaches and Operation S.N.3. Your 1225/22.
1. In view of encouraging performance of experimental minefield and of the urgent need for every A/S measure possible in the North Western Approaches, it has been decided that the deep minefield in this are is to be laid first, using antenna mines, the risk of prematures being accepted.
2. Request you will amend your programme to lay lines D and B in that order.
3. Approved to carry out operation S.N.3 after your first two lays in order to clear this special material from Railway sidings. (V.C.N.S. 1132/24 to R.A.M.L.)

Tyne. Closed. Suspected Minelaying. Sweeping not possible to-day owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1142/24 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Clyde. Magnetic Mines reported ½ mile S.S.W. of Garroch Head. Vessels not to pass within 2 miles of Garrach Head and to keep close to Little Cumbrae Island.
(Capt. S.7 1031/24 to 7th S/M Flotilla).

Faroes. My 1203/17. A second Explosion occurred in Skopen Fiord at 1500/17. No ship sunk, so explosion cannot be explained. My 1615/18/9. I strongly urge that skimming searches be made. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1143/24 to Adty.)

Flamborough Head. One Enemy Seaplane believed laying Mines in 54° 8' N. 0° 3' E. One underwater Explosion heard. (EGRET 1858/24 to Adty.)

Plymouth. Owing to recent magnetic minelaying in approaches ships arriving Plymouth should as far as practicable rendezvous in a position 2 point 5 miles 170° from Penlee

/ Point .....

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (continued)

Plymouth (contd.) — Point one hour after official daylight and follow sweepers into Port. (C.in C. W.A. 1946/24).

Thames Estuary. — BALMORAL reports at 2212 that 14 Explosions probably Mines, were seen in air less than 1000 feet up at about 3 miles 160° from Mouse Light Vessel. (X.D.O. Sheerness 2330/24 to C.in C. Nore) Further details (C.in C. Nore 1607/25).

Aberdeen. — At 1800/23 a Coast Watcher and Civilian saw one aircraft drop a black object into sea one mile East of Cove Bay. No parachute observed. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1221/24 to C.in C. Rosyth.

Enemy Intelligence.

Off Bergen. — One M/V 2000 tons at rest, bearing 60° 15 miles from 60° 56' N. 4° 35' E. (Aircraft of 269 Sqdn. 0907 and 0910/24).

Tramore Bay. — Your 1240/22. N.A. Dublin reports no ship like that described by DE RESZKE was sighted in Tramore Bay on night 19/10. (D.N.I. 1752/24 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

Rotterdam, Flushing, Ijmuiden, Antwerp — R/C at 1050/24. (P.I.U. 1915/24 to N.I.D.)

Enemy small craft. — At 1940 in 54° 50' N. 3° 50' E. D/F reliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2107/24).

Norwegian Coast. — Since the W/T activity yesterday, a marked reduction of activity has taken place, which appears to indicate an interruption of the movements as planned.
There are slight indications that the southerly movement might be continued in the near future, but further evidence must be awaited.
(D.D.I.C. 2137/24 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (continued)

Plymouth (contd.) — Point one hour after official daylight and follow sweepers into Port. (C.in C. W.A. 1946/24).

Thames Estuary. — BALMORAL reports at 2212 that 14 Explosions probably Mines, were seen in air less than 1000 feet up at about 3 miles 160° from Mouse Light Vessel. (X.D.O. Sheerness 2330/24 to C.in C. Nore) Further details (C.in C. Nore 1607/25).

Aberdeen. — At 1800/23 a Coast Watcher and Civilian saw one aircraft drop a black object into sea one mile East of Cove Bay. No parachute observed. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1221/24 to C.in C. Rosyth.

Enemy Intelligence.

Off Bergen. — One M/V 2000 tons at rest, bearing 60° 15 miles from 60° 56' N. 4° 35' E. (Aircraft of 269 Sqdn. 0907 and 0910/24).

Tramore Bay. — Your 1240/22. N.A. Dublin reports no ship like that described by DE RESZKE was sighted in Tramore Bay on night 19/10. (D.N.I. 1752/24 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

Rotterdam, Flushing, Ijmuiden, Antwerp — R/C at 1050/24. (P.I.U. 1915/24 to N.I.D.)

Enemy small craft. — At 1940 in 54° 50' N. 3° 50' E. D/F reliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2107/24).

Norwegian Coast. — Since the W/T activity yesterday, a marked reduction of activity has taken place, which appears to indicate an interruption of the movements as planned.
There are slight indications that the southerly movement might be continued in the near future, but further evidence must be awaited.
(D.D.I.C. 2137/24 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

LORD IRWIN.	My 1629/23. Weather unsuitable. Sailing postponed. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0757/24 to C.in C. Portsmouth).
SEROOSKERK.	My 1125/21. Arrived Durban. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1145 B/24 to Adty.)
MENDIP.	At about 1130 an explosion occurred on stern of MENDIP near Barrel of Butter. No immediate danger. Proceeding towards Gutter Sound. C.O. suspects internal explosion. (A.C.O.S. 1156 and 1240/24 to Adty.) Probably result of accidental explosion of Depth Charge while exercising in Flow. Has been docked for temporary repairs and should be ready to proceed in about 3 days. 5 missing, 6 seriously injured. (R.A.D. 1815/24 to Adty.)
ST. MALO.	See Shipping (Convoy H.X. 77).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys.	Shipping.
O.A. 234.	COREOPSIS on passing join ROCHESTER escorting O.A. 234 due to leave Methil 0730/24. PRIMROSE will relieve you later (C.in C. Rosyth 0521/24 to COREOPSIS).
K.N.11.	H.M.T's HUGH WALPOLE AND SOUTHERN WAVE (N.C.S.O. Methil 0945/24).
C.W.15.	Convoy postponed 24 hours. (C.in C. Nore 1314/24) Adty. 2207/23 (bombing of coastal batteries while C.W.15 passes Dover) Convoy postponed 24 hours. Request similar arrangements for 25/10 (C.in C. Nore 1346/24) Will sail 115/25 weather permitting (C.in C. Nore 1654/24).
TITANIAN (in F.S.19)	To be diverted to Sunderland. Tyne closed (C.in C. Rosyth 1426/24).
O.A. 232 O.B. 232 S.C.8.	Arrangements for local escorts. (C.in C. W.A. 1443/24).
W.N. 25.	Position. Speed (BERKSHIRE 1930/24).
B.S.43.	ICARUS and IMPULSIVE are to act as escort (C.in C. Nore 2144/24).
F.N.	Tyne closed. Ships for Tyne should be diverted to Sunderland (C.in C. Rosyth 2235/24).
CLARE's H.X.77	Orders for convoy owing to suspected mines (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 2345/24). 23 hours late, westerly gales and heavy seas. Convoy attacked before meeting local escort and scattered. Ships sunk STANGRANT, PORT GISBORNE, BRANDANGER, PACIFIC RANGER, DAVANGER. ST. MALO lost convoy 6/10 owing to lack of speed and is not yet reported in (D.T.D. 1740/14).
Positions.	Convoy secret positions for two days before reaching the rendezvous in North Western Approaches are in future to be included in Sailing Telegrams as additional paragraph 8 (A). (D.T.D. 1613/24).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

The following signals are abstracted in the Operations Volume.

1st S.L. 0100/24 to F.O.C.N.A.

S.O. Force H. 1537/24 to Admty.

F.O.C.N.A. 1550/24

Gov.-Gib. 2055/24

G.O.C. West Africa to W.O. 1745/23

D.D.I.C. 0055/24

Admty. (Actg.) Gov. Freetown 1201/24

F.O.C. 1sr C.S. 1547/24

F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1549/24

F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1541/24

F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1553/14

F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1555/24

F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1557/24

F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1559/24

F.C.S.O. 1601/24

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French ship movements.

Gibraltar 1000/24 LE HARDI escorting JEAN LABORDE passing west to east. 1200 French Armed Trawler CAPTAINE ARMAND escorting AUVERGNE KAKOULIMA passing west to east. 1500 CAPTAINE ARMAND returned westbound. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1507/24).

British ships held up by French. No further exchange of ships.

Your 1900/16. French Gov. is already under an obligation by agreement of July 4 to release all Allied ships and ships under the British flag, which were on time charter to French Mission. H.M. Gov. are still waiting for this Agreement to be implemented by the French Gov.
H.M. G. requested the French Gov. to release British ships in return for the four French ships released earlier to repatriate French personnel. (MEKNES, AVEYRON, JEAN L.D. and SAUMUR) H.M.G. requested in return TAKORADIAN, GAMBIAN, ARGYLL at Dakar and TEMPLE PIER at Algiers. The French ships were released by H.M.Gov. continue to detain the four British ships requested H.M. Gov. have since proposed to the French Gov. the release of French ships for the purpose of repatriating French personnel in exchange for further equivalent quantity of British tonnage in addition to the four whose release was previously requested. When the Allied and British ships due to be released under the Agreement of July 4 have been permitted to proceed to British ports and the French Gov. release the four British ships named above in return for the four French ships already returned to France H.M. Gov. will be prepared to study further the question of an exchange of the remaining ships on a ton for ton basis. (Hd. of M. 1928/24 to N.A. Madrid).

South Atlantic.

French Ships, Dakar.

Repeating Governor, Sierra Leone's 1735/23, re 3 French liners arrived Dakar, to C.in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A. and S.O. Force H. (D.D.I.C. 0816/24).

Suspicious Ships.

My 2242 B/23. Investigation shows ORMONDE had little or no reason to report that these ships were acting in suspicious manner, (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1003 Z/24).

SPROOSKERK

Overdue 21/10, arrived Durban (S.O.(I) Capetown 1145 B/24).

BRECONSHIRE.

Your 1803/14. Report vessel's subsequent movements (D.O.D.(F) 2033/24 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

/ Suspicious ship. ....

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Continued).

Suspicious ship.

Algoa Bay Radio reports following received from ~~plus~~ GRMU ( ). Begins. 1000 G.M.T. 035° 13' S. 030° 15' E. sighted vessel hull down heading approximately 190° having marked resemblance to REGENSBURG. Ends. Dutch ship ALMKERK may be in this vicinity.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1350 Z/24.)

CARNARVON CASTLE

Your 0342 Z/14 and 1036 Z/22 and my 1119N/19 CARNARVON CASTLE is required for another duty and will not now be proceeding on Patrol in J 34 and L 34.
My 1157N/11 date of arrival CARNAVON CASTLE in Rio Area will be delayed for at least 10 days and will be communicated later. AUSTURIAS should leave to Dock as arranged.
(C.in C. S.A. 1831 N/24 to R.A.S. A.D.)

Mediterranean.

Reinforcements for Fleet.

Your 1845/5. Steps are being taken to bring Hurricanes now at Malta to strength of one squadron. Reconnaissance aircraft at Malta will be increased to total of 12 Glenn Martins. September and October allocation of A/A guns will be advanced in despatch to early November. Thereafter monthly allocations will continue until approved scale is reached. The two cruisers referred to in para A. of A.T. 0205/18 and the four destroyers accompanying BARHAM are all that can be spared at present. Above represents maximum reinforcement we can spare at present. Hoped it will enable you to do something from Malta if only for short periods.
(Hd. of M., 1144/24 to C.in C. Med.)

MILOS.

Arrived and sailed from Piraeus evening 21/10. My 1211/16. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1012/22).

Air raid on Alexandria.

0300 to 0430. About 6 a/c, 25 bombs. No Naval damage (N.O.I.C. Alexandria 1405/24

BRITISH SERGEANT
BRITISH ARCHITECT
LISS

Orders (C.in C. Med. 1453/23).

S/M's

Bring into force condition A at 0300/25 (Capt. S 1 1717/24 to S/M's on patrol).

Movements Summary No. 163.

C.in C. Med. 2021/24.

/ Rumanian Submarines ....

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterrarean. (Continued)

Rumanian Submarines. — N.A. Bucharest reports one Rumanian submarine laid up waiting spare parts. The two small submarines building could be ready by time Danube opens 1941 with German workmen employed. Other ships are prepared and possibly more submarines could be put together by then (N.A.Angora 1705/24).

Assistance to Turkey. — Admiral Kelly's interpretation of Adty. intentions. Turkish requirements from Great Britain. Their contribution (N.A. Angora 2219/24).

Operation M.A.4.2. — C.in C. Med., 1235/24. (see 25/10) Convoy A.N.5. Route. Escort CALCUTTA, HERO and HAVOCK. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1029/24).

Malta Convoys, BARHAM BERWICK — Admty. 1849/23. Essential to run A Levant Convoys [redacted], also necessary to run 1 on [redacted] if operation takes place then. Until stocks of Malta have been augmented to a substantial extent operation of fleet will continue to be bound up in convoy work. Objections to BARHAM's entry into Malta must be accepted.
Realised that cancellation of operation UNIFORM will necessitate a cruiser being employed to escort vessels round the Cape. Conisered that BERWICK would be best employed for this.
Not clear why 2 cruisers would be required to escort 2 M T ships round Cape, and in view of reduced state of my cruiser force I am loth to forego its reinforcement longer than is absolutely necessary.
(C.in C. Med. 1515/24 to Admty.)

French troops reliefs for Syria. — V.A. Godfroy has requested safe conduct for passage of 10,000 regular troops to Syria in the way of normal relief. Syria authorities informed him that H.M. Gov. have already agreed to this in principle. Date and ships not yet stated. It is intended to sail these in 2 convoys and second is to carry a cargo for building works in Beyrout. I have replied that the matter has been referred to U.K. for decision.
(C.in C. Med. 1935/24).

Libyan supply ship routes. — Have you as a result of recent reconnaissance formed any opinion as to the routes used by Italian supply and troop ships between Italy and Libya, and the volume of traffic on these routes.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2051/24 to C.in C. Med.)

MOST SECRET.

24.10.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

GLIMMAREN.

Cancel para. 2 of my 0738/21. No cargo loaded union ports of Lourenco Marques for Madagascar.
(C.in C. E.I. 0436Z/24).

OLTENIA.
STEAUA ROMANA.

Roumanian ships OLTENIA and STEAUA ROMANA requisitioned at Mombasa and required in U.K. It may be necessary to repatriate Roumanian crew. No relief officers or crew available in Africa. Can India or Malaya provide.
(C.in C. E.I. 0544Z/24 to P.S.T.O. India, Commodore Malaya).

ENEMY DESTROYER BOMBED 21/10.

My 0358/21 (1) R.A.F. have reported bombing an enemy destroyer one mile east of Harmil Island a.m./21. One hit obtained. Not yet certain whether this was wreck of KIMBERLEY's victim or a fresh destroyer. Full report from LEANDER of night attack on B.N.7 is not expected before about 27 when she returns to harbour.
(C.in C. E.I. 0800Z/24).

GNAT. WARIALDA SLAVOL.

Take GNAT under your orders when she arrives outer Bar noon/27 and escort her to Khor Kuwai at best possible speed. WARIALDA is to proceed independently or in company. Oiler SLAVOL will provide onward escort to Aden.
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf 0806Z/24 to CORNWALLIS).

6 inch Guns from GNAT.

580. Ref: Adty. 1100/21 September.
(i) 6 inch guns and mountings ex GNAT might be used to form coast defence battery for Port Victoria, Seychelles. Request (a) Admiralty's authority to this allocation (b) War Office's concurrence.
(C.in C. E.I. 0958Z/24).

GALILEO GALILEI.

Your 3124/14 to N.O.i/c Aden. Nothing suitable available from GALILEO GALILEI until final service of U/Boat is settled.
(C.in C. E.I. 1110Z/23).

MOST SECRET.

24.10.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

KIMBERLEY.

My 1538/22 (?1548/22 intended)
(1) KIMBERLY undergoing repairs Port Sudan. Starboard engine and hull will be completed 1200/27. (iii) If tests and trials are satisfactory intend ship to continue on service with power of port engine limited until new steam pipe is fitted.
(C.in C. E.I. 1456Z/24).

DANGER ZONES.

Para.1 of your 1126/17. The danger zone in 1432/16 has already been notified to neutral governments and was justified to them as being an answer to the almost identical Italian announcement. It is, therefore, not intended to alter the publicly declared boundaries of the zone.

The zone announced in in general wider than that proposed by you and the public announcement does not bind you in framing your instructions except to determine the maximum zone within which you may authorise sinking at sight. You have full discretion to draw up instructions for action within the zone in the manner you think most appropriate.

Your 0854/22. Terms of warning to neutral governments are as in para.1 of Admiralty message 1432/16 with the addition that due regard will be paid to legitimate neutral shipping entering and leaving the Red Sea.

Action should be taken forthwith.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2000/24 to C.in C.E.I.)

Red Sea.
Convoys.

C.in C. E.I. 1122/23 para. IV. (a) S.N.O. Red Sea is requested to report what additional escort would be needed.

(b) subsequently C.in C. Mediterranean is requested to report if this could be provided.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2356/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Re sending of men to South Africa and from there to Lisbon by a Portuguese line.
Your 1149/19 Para.(1). Facilities would be available. (C.in C. China 1005 Z/24 to Adty.)

Trade with China.

Adty. 0825/18 (Presumably C.in C. China 0825/18 intended). Admiral Terraux asks that tankers should not come to Indo China for the present since Vichy have ordered this. Vichy permission is being requested for one tanker per mensen. Consul General Hanoi is consulting Gov. Gen. on the subject.
(L.O. Saigon 0412 Z/24 to C.in C. China).

America and West Indies.

? LAURENT MEEUS. My 1046/20 Washington reports Belgian Embassy have informed me that Belgian Government in London has requested a report from Captain the nature of which I do not know, and ship is now being detained San Pedro until this has been furnished. Cargo is 60 thousand barrels diesel oil supplied by General Petroleum no reason to believe anything but a normal commercial transaction is involved.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1221/24).

BRADFORD. My 1846/20 and 1721/22. Have still no news of BRADFORD. Request earliest possible information of safe arrival of this ship. BURNHAM reported BRADFORD dropped astern unknown to himself. Request this occurrence which nullified object of sailing these ships in groups may be investigated on arrival. It is known BRADFORD had only flying boat W/T transmitter of very low power.
(B.S.3 1336/24).

Australia.

Operations by N.E.I. navy. C.in C. N.E.I. intends to institute patrol by surface warships approx. on the Equator between 130° E. and 180° E. to protect Dutch trade coming from U.S.A.
2. It will be necessary for Dutch to station an oiler in some position central to this patrol, probably at an island in the Australian Mandate.
3. Request you will arrange for every assistance to be given to C.in C. N.E.I. should he ask for such base.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1707/24 to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.10.1940
Thursday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Re information that ANNELIESE ESSBERGER has crew of 7 ships on board	Your 1647/22. Secret source reports it is thought ship may be ELSA ESSBERGER or might be a similar ship of same company. It is believed grading B three is correct. (B.N.A. Buenos Aires, 1225/24)
RUDOLF ALBRECHT	Tanker at Teneriffe, reported to have taken oil from Italian tanker TAIGETE and to be preparing to sail (D.S. 416)
MADRID	At Las Palmas, reported to be preparing to sail shortly (D.S. 416)
Las Palmas	Reported all German ships to be ready to leave within 20 days (list) (D.S. 416)
HERMONTHIS, MUNCHEN, MONSRRATE	At Calloo, unable to obtain oil up to 15/10 (D.S. 416)
Narvik	Of ships sunk in Narvik actions, BOCKENHEIM still aground, JAN WELLEM, PLANET and another will soon be afloat, LIPPE being salved (D.S. 416)
Black Sea	Reported Germans chartering Roumanian ships and also Bulgarian BALKAN and SHIPKA (DS 416

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Las Palmas	Reported all Italian ships to be ready to leave within 20 days. (list of 10 there) (D.S. 416)
CORTELLAZO	Thought to be refuging at Yokohama, now known to have left there on 5/6 and arrived Dairen 9/6 where she now is. (D.S. 416) (Capt O.S. Singapore 0501Z/24)
REX	Reported at Pola, well camouflaged. (DS 416)
CARBONIA	Rumoured sunk by submarine off Durazzo on 22/8. (D.S. 416)
FIUME	Auxiliary engined sailing vessel of 40 tons, said to transport stores every Thursd: between Rhodes and Scarpanto. (D.S. 416)

MOST SECRET

24.10.1940
Thursday

War Diary

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.10.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

THALIA — Convoy escort reports picking up survivors. (D.T.D. 1141/24)

SEDGEPOOL — British 5556 tons, Convoy escort reports picking up survivors. (D.T.D. 1141/24 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

LAESTANCIA (Torpedoed in HX79) — 7 survivors landed by INDUNA at Methil (N.O.I.C. Methil 1708/24) 32 survivors have been landed (D.S. 416)

RUPERRA (Torpedoed in HX78) — 2 survivors landed by INDUNA at Methil (N.O.I.C. Methil 1708/24) 39 survivors have been landed (D.S. 416)

BRANDANGER — In Convoy HX 77. Sunk (about 11/10-13/10) (D.T.D. 1740/24)

NIRITOS (Torpedoes in SC 7) — Chief Officer and 12 men landed at Londonderry. Captain and 13 had previously arrived Clyde. One man missing. (D.S. 416)

UGANDA
LOCH LOMAND
(Torpedoed in HX 79) — No presumed to have sunk. (D.S. 416)

BLAIRSPEY (Torpedoed in SC 7) — Will probably be beached. (D.S. 416)

PACIFIC RANGER (Torpedoed 12/10) — Icelandic trawler THORMONDUR arrived Reykjavik p.m./24 with master and 12 survivors of SS PACIFIC RANGER. 6266 tons torpedoed and sunk in position 056° 20' N., 011° 45' W., at 1915/12. Survivors picked up after 9 days in position 057° 50' N., 010° 00' W., at 0900/21. 2 other boats approximately 20 each last seen position ship was sunk at 1700/13. (F.O. Iceland 1655/24)

/Attack on Convoy...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.10.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

Attack on Convoy H.X. 79 19-20/10.

Commodore and Masters of INDUNA and UGANDA ex convoy H.X. 79 interviewed on arrival Methil and following views were expressed.
(A) Attack was made by two or more submarines closing flanks of convoy at high speed on surface.
(B) Submarines submerged to fire torpedoes and then surfaced to regain position.
(C) One submarine at least passed through port wing column on surface and torpedoed 2 or 3 ships in inner columns.
(D) Parachute flares were observed floating in air lighting up convoy and presumably sent up by submarine.
(E) Several ships left convoy after first casualty and it is thought most of these were torpedoed.
(F) Work of submarines facilitated by two burning oilers which lit up convoy.
(G) Weather was ine and sea calm.
(H) Attack lasted for 4 hours.
(I) No gunfire was heard.
(J) Escort consisted of 2 destroyers, 1 sloop 5 corvettes 2 trawlers disposed all round convoy.
(K) Evasive steering and large alterations of course had been carried out at frequent intervals during previous 24 hours.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1915/24, amended C. in C., Rosyth, 1035/25)

Submarines Reported

0930-1315/23 — Lisbon reports submarine sighted north of San Miguel, Azores, at 0830 and 1215 G.M.T. /23. Grade A.O. (F.O.C.N.A. to ALCANTARA, CORNWALL, 0135/24)

1509 — 58° to 59° N., 17° to 20° W., position indefihite. (D.S. 416)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: Probably one to N. of Azores.
German : 1 may arrive Lorient today and another tonight.
1 in vicinity Porcupine Bank bound Northwards.
4 or 5 in N.W. Approaches or farther W.
1 was in about 58° 30' N., 19 W at 1510/23
1 in about 60° N., and West of 25° West.
Probably 2 operating off S.W. Norway.
(D.D.I.C. 1354/24)

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.10.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

U-Boat Campaign

C. in C., Home Fleet has renounced the withdrawal of ACHATES and ANTELOPE from North Western Approaches.

Convoy C.W. 15 Shelled

Enemy batteries shelled Convoy C.W. 15 whilst between South Goodwin and Folkestone Gate at 1745 and again between 1958 and 2111 today.

R.A.F. bombed the Gris Nez batteries during the passage of the convoy, and this no doubt hampered the enemy batteries. No damage to the convoy is reported.

Dover Shelled

Dover was also shelled between 2104 and 2206, damage causing a temporary hold up of rail traffic.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Channel Ports attacked last night were Flushing and Rotterdam. Single aircraft attacked Dunkirk and Ostend. Blohm and Voss shipyards at Hamburg and docks at Cuxhaven were also attacked. Single aircraft attacked Bremen, Wilhelmshaven and Hamburg.

Coastal Command

Targets were attacked last night at Le Havre, Bremerhaven and Lorient. Shipping and harbour works at Antwerp were attacked today.

A Special reconnaissance of the Norwegian coast from Trondheim to Stadlandet was carried out today.

Enemy Air Activity

FERNIE was bombed by 9 aircraft off Ramsgate this afternoon, but no damage is reported.

/F.A.A.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.10.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

F.A.A. safety vessel DUTHIES was sunk by a near miss this evening, alongside the jetty at Montrose.

Convoy C.W. 15 was bombed off Deal this evening but no damage is reported.

The traffic office at Chatham Dockyard was wrecked today. AtWrabness the telephone wires were damaged last night. Slight damage was caused at Arbroath this evening (see also DUTHIES)

AVANCE (examination vessel) was attacked by and enemy seaplane which fired a torpedo at her off Aberdeen this evening. The torpedo missed astern.

Mining

Five Hampdens last night laid mines off Brest and 5 Swordfish in the Maas Estuary.

Several ports were affected by enemy mine laying today, Belfast closed at 0132, re-opened 1111/25 but ships are not to anchor in Belfast Lough.

Blyth, closed at 0315. Reopened 1456.

Tyne, Opened at 0932. 2 magnetic mines detonated a.m.

Hartlepool, closed at 0954.

Plymouth, closed at 1136, reopened 1728.

Liverpool (closed 0400/24) Reopened 1000, but there is a dangerous area near Bear L.V

Rosyth, closed between Inchkieth East Gate and 2° 52' W.,

Port of Methil is open.

/6 ships.....

MOST SECRET

25.10.1940
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

6 Ships Mined

Trawler WINDSOR was sunk 2 miles south of Spurn Point a.m. today, and a second ship, name unknown, believed to be an incoming trawler was sunk this morning 3½ miles S.E. of Spurn Point.

SS MOUNT BATTOCK was mined in the Humber.

LL Trawler LORD INCHCAPE was mined off Plymouth this morning and sank after being towed to Jennycliff Bay.

A motor fishing vessel, believed to be the ENCOURAGE was also sunk off Breakwater Fort both presumed by new type enemy mine.

A/S Trawler ST WINSTON was damaged by a mine off the Humber today.

Operations Against Vichy French

DEVONSHIRE and DELHI are to institute a patrol off Libreville to discourage French reinforcements from approaching.

The French ship ALBI was intercepted by DELHI just north of the Equator and south of the Ivory Coast and scuttled herself. DELHI sank the wreck as fires were out of control, and took the crew prisoners. ALBI was in ballast from Casablanca to Libreville to load timber.

Mediterranean

Bombardment by APHIS

Early this morning APHIS, working in co-operation with R.A.F. who dropped flares carried out a successful 40 minute bombardment of an enemy concentration 15 miles East of Sidi Barrani. Fire was in due course opened from ashore, but APHIS was not hit.

Last night R.A.F. attacked Benghazi harbour with the object of denying the use of the port for reinforcement.

/MALAYA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.10.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

MALAYA (F.O.C. I B.S.) EAGLE, ORION, SYDNEY, COVENTRY and 8 destroyers left Alexandria this morning, to cover Convoy A.N. 5. which left Egyptian ports p.m. yesterday escorted by CALCUTTA and 2 destroyers.

6 Blenheims of the R.A.F. bombed Tobruk at 0835, and another 9 Blenheims straddled the north foreshore with bombs, demolishing buildings in the naval barracks area.

East Indies

Blenheims today bombed Assab, dropping bombs on the pier and elsewhere.

China

British SS MINSANG was bombed this evening in 27° 52' N., 121° 15' E., outside the prohibited area, by a Japanese Naval party which employed force to search the ship and sealed the W/T.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.10.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Withdrawal of 2 Destroyers from N.W. Approaches

Your 2249/24. Your need is greater than mine please keep ACASTES and ANTELOPE, I can now do without them as ECHO and ESCAPADE are arriving shortly. (C. in C., H.F. 1059/25 to C. in C., W.A.)

W.R. Plan Dagger owing to increased possibility of enemy mining in winter nights it is now necessary that minesweeping forces should make the search of channels their principle object. Search for mines on East Coast route should normally be timed to give best protection to convoys. In order to reduce strain on ships and men, R.C. patrols should be maintained when weather conditions or enemy intelligence indicate that invasion or a raid is likely. (1st S.L. 1819/25)

Monthly Meetings

Cancel Adty. 2052/24. Revised arrangements. (1st S.L. 2028/25)

DELUGE

At 0200/25. (D.C. 0205/25, 0835/25.
At 1400/25. (D.C. 1432/25)

Rosyth Night Artillery Zone

Request it may be reintroduced, in view of minelaying by E/A and presence of certain ships at Rosyth (V.C.N.S. 0009/25)

Movements

HIGHLANDER HARVESTER

HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER sailed in accordance with C. in C., W.A. 1249/22. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0901/25)

EDINBURGH AGAMEMNON COMORIN

Your 1555/24. Owing to sailing of EDINBURGH passing Tyne Pier heads at 1600/29, AGAMEMNON and COMORIN will sail on 30/10 passing Tyne Pier Heads at 1000. Request destroyer and air escorts may be arranged. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1257/25 to C. in C., H.F)

JERSEY

Expected to be ready to leave Sheerness 27/10. Request comfirmation that destimation is Plymouth. (C. in C., Nore, 1510/25 to C. in C., W.A.)
Your 1510/25. Destination confirmed. (C. in C., W.A. 1740/25)

/Orkneys.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

Orkneys	Movements tonight (A.C.O.S. 1531/25)
Northern Patrol	Ships occupying Trawler lines today. (A.C.O.S. 1536/25)
Portsmouth	Night movement signal (C. in C., Portsmouth 1537/25)
GLASGOW	My 1512/24. To sail 28/10 not 26/10. (C. in C., H.F. 1538/25)
Western Channel	Night report. (C. in C., W.A. 1545/25)
Rosyth	Movements tonight (C. in C., Rosyth 1854/25)
WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN	Orders re proceeding to Porta Delgada, Asores when ready fro sea, (A.C.N.S. (F) 2322/25)
DUNCAN FOXHOUND	Revised arrangements for duties (R.A.D. 2320/25)

Submarines

H. 28	To sail 1500/27. Route. Zone. (S.O. S/M's Harwich 0941/25)
TRIUMPH	Trials satisfactory. To work up. Propose she sails 6/11 not 3/11. (S 2 1419/25)
H. 49	Orders for leaving patrol for Harwich (S.O. S/M'S Harwich 1555/25)
Positions & Movements	0700/26. (V.A.S. 1649/25, 2234/25)
STURGEON	Movements. Amending 1649/25 (V.A.S. 2106/25)
SEAWOLF	Informing her of movements affecting her (Capt S. 3. 2251/25)

/ SUNFISH.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.10.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines-Contd.

SUNFISH

SUNFISH escorted by SLEIPNER will arrive off Duncansby Head at 0800/27 on passage to patrol area North of Muckle Flugga.

One destroyer is to be sailed from Scapa to relieve SLEIPNER in the above position and provide onward escort as far as Muckle Flugga. (C. in C., H.F. 1014/25 to R.A. (D)

Sails 1300/26. Route etc., (S. 3. 1341/25 to V.A.S.)

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Intelligence summary No 503. Operations to 2359/24 (H.Q.B.C. 0200/25)

Coastal Command

Operations night 24/25. BREMEN and EUROPA not seen (Air Ministry. 0815/25)

Enemy Aircraft Activity

FERNIE

9 aircraft bombing 51° 20' N. 1°32' E., (FERNIE 1616/25, 1630/25) Still shadowing. (FERNIE 1659/25)

Chatham Dockyard

One bomb 6.40 hours today. Traffic office wrecked (Supt. C.E. 1852/25)

Wrabness

7 bombs at 2150/24 without advanced warning. Telephone wires damaged. (F.O.i/c Harwich 1117/25)

S.L. 50

White rocket observed astern of convoy 2350/21 in 54° 38' N., 17° 48' W. 1 escort proceeded back 8 miles, nothing seen. Thought to be an enemy ruse to draw escort. No attack made on convoy. (CLEMATIS 1255/25)

Air R.C.

There are indications of German Naval Air R.C. between Flamborough Head and Girdleness (D.D.I.C. 2026/25)

Arbroath

Air Attack about 1840. Damage ascertained so far not serious. No serious casualties yet found. (R.A.N.A.S. 2101/25)

/Convoy C.W. 15....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Aircraft Activity-Contd.

Convoy C.W. 15. Passed Dover. Bombed off Deal. (V.A.Dover 2111/25)

DUTHIES Sunk Steam drifter DUTHIES attached to F.A.A. Arbroath was sunk by a near miss of bomb alongside jetty at Montrose at about 1845 today. All crew safe. One man slightly wounded in head. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 1930/25)

Mining

Belfast Closed due to suspected minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Belfast, 0132/25) Now open (N.O.i/c Belfast, 1111/25) Re my 1111/25 Port is only open for ships proceeding direct to Berth in harbour. No ship may anchor in Belfast Lough. (N.O.i/c Belfast 1711/25) Ships may now anchor in Bangor Bay, south of swept Channel. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1911/25)

Blyth Closed, suspected minelaying. Expect to open 1400 (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0315/25) Blyth open (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1456/25, C. in C., Rosyth 1542/25)

Tyne Port open (F.O.I/C Tyne 0932/25) 2 ground magnetic mines detonated by LL at 1034 and 1035 off Blyth E. Pierhead. (P.M.S.O. North Shields, 1258/25, F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1309/25)

Liverpool Until further notice anchorage prohibited in area within 5 miles of Bar L.V. (F.O.i/c Liverpool 0950/25) Port reopened 1000/25 (F.O.i/c Liverpool 1005/25) My 0950/25 Area east of Bar L.V. south of line joining Bar L.V.A and Q.I. Black buoy is considered clear. (F.O.i/c Liverpool 1746/25)

Hartlepool Port closed owing to suspected minelaying. Vessels for Hartlepool may enter Tees. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0954/25)

Plymouth Port closed due to suspected aircraft minelaying (C. in C., W.A. 1136/25) Port now open (C. in C., W.A. 1728/25)

/Tr. WINDSOR.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.10.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Trawler WINDSOR Sunk	Trawler WINDSOR outward bound form Grimsby sunk by underwater explosion 174° Spurn Point 2.1 miles. One casualty. (F.O. Humber, 1215/25)
LORD INCHCAPE Sunk ENCOURAGE Sunk	Since my 1356/21 regret to report mining of LL Trawler LORD INCHCAPE in approx. 228° 8.5 cables breakwater light at 0925 LORD INCHCAPE towed to Jennycliff Bay where she sank in 24 ft water one seaman missing also loss of motor fishing vessel believed to be ENCOURAGE in 210° 61/2 cables approx. from Breakwater Fort at 0904 both presumed by new type enemy mine. (C. in C., W.A. 1748/25)
SS MOUNTBATTOCK Mined	SS MOUNTBATTOCK sinking in position of 62 C Buoy as result of mine explosion in Humber. SS. GRIT stand by. Request immediate assistance. (WOLFHOUND 1820/25)
Second Ship Sunk	Regret to report second ship name unknown believe to be incoming trawler sunk a.m. today by under water explosion 131 ½ degs. Spurn Point 3.50 miles. No survivors. (F.O.Humber 2220/25)
Rosyth	Due to suspected enemy minelaying the Approach to Rosyth is closed between Inchkieth East Gate and 02° 52' W., Port of Methil is open. D.G. range area is closed. (C. in C., Rosyth 1331/25)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.10.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Air Reports	BREMEN, EUROPA, TIRPITZ etc., (See O.I.C report for details) (P.I.U. 0031/25)
Antwerp	Shipping is now disposed as follows. (H.Q.C.C 1223/25)
German Main Units	My 1159/22. For Wilhelmshaven 21/10. read 24/10. (D.D.I.C. 1651/25)
Surface Craft off Beachy Head	Enemy surface craft reported 200° Beachy Head 10 miles at 2145 (C. in C., Portsmouth 2210/25 to FERNIE)
Enemy Destroyers	Enemy destroyer(s) may be operating from Cherbourg tonight 25/26 October. (Capt S. 5. 2350/25)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.10.1940
Friday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

BAY DEODAR	Owing to collision damage BAY did not sail and due to grounding DEODAR did not sail with C.W. 15. Intend to sail them for Portsmouth in company as soon as damage has been made good. (C. in C., Nore, 1354/25)
BEAGLE	Your 1035/24 and BEAGLE's 1410/25. These defects will be taken in hand at Greenock before sailing BEAGLE for Scapa. (F.O.i/c Greenock 1626/25)
MARGAREE	120½ My 1142/24 urgently request information may be sent by cable forthwith or such information which is available. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1528/25 to Admty.)
MARITMA	My 0955 B/22 MARITMA arrived Durban (S.O. I. Cape Town 1125B/25 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.10.1940
Froday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	**Shipping**
Movements	Tonight 25-26/10. (C. in C., Rosyth 1845/25)
O.B.C. 234	AMAZON to escort (Capt D. 12 0935/25) A/S trawler escort should read ST APOLLO, LADY LILIAN only. Time of sailing (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1126/25)
S.L.A. 50	Position (CLEMATIS, 0130/25)
F.N. 18	Hartlepool closed. Any ship in F.N. 18 to be diverted to Tees. BENEFICENT bound Tyne should be diverted Sunderland. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1110/25)
O.B.	O.B. Convoys intended only for ships of 9 knots in reasonable weather. Slower ships to be kept for O.B.S. Convoys. (D.T.D. 1925/25)
Routes Northern Approaches	Cancel my 1402/30/6 and substitute. All convoy routes will be by Northern Approaches only. All ships for East Coast ports in Homeward convoys except those in S.C. Convoys proceed to Oban. Those in S.C. convoys proceed to Clyde. All ships in homeward convoys are to be provided with routes to Belfast, Liverpool, Oban, Clyde, Milford Haven and Barry Road. Stragglers bound for East Coast ports from S.C. convoys proceed to Clyde. Stragglers for East Coast ports from all other homeward convoys proceed to Oban. Homeward bound admiralty Oilers for Scapa to proceed with Oban portion of convoy. (D.T.D. 1602/25)
W.N., Pentland Firth	Requesting permission for W.N. convoys to enter Pentland Firth in dock hours. (N.C.S.O Clyde, 1505/24, to C. in C., W.A.)
Balloons	A. 910/24/10. Ref. 1919/19. Up to maximum 8 balloons may accompany each convoy. Number to be requested C. in C., Nore of 30 Group who will satisfy whenever possible. (H.Q. Balloon Command, 1601/24)
S.L. 50	For information, 2350/21 in 5438 N 1748 W White rocket observed astern convoy S.L. 50 1 escort proceeded back 8 miles nothing seen thought to be enemy ruse to draw escort no attack made on convoy. (CLEMATIS 1255/25)

MOST SECRET.

25.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French

Aircraft, Dakar. Report of Glen Martins and Curtiss Wrights continuing to arrive from Morocco, approx. 100 modern aircraft Ouakam and Thies hangars. (C.O.C. W.A., to W.O., 220/24, received from W.O., 1645/25).

Libreville, DEVONSHIRE, DELHI. Message from Prime Minster:- [redacted] French reinforcements should be made to turn back, if possible without active fighting. Ostentatious patrol by DEVONSHIRE and DELHI should be instituted forthwith. (1 S.L. to C.S.1 1641/25). *La Speration Volume.*

Operation "Ration". Your 1550/24. Operation [redacted] will be called Operation Ration. Preparations to be made for it, (date), but [redacted], Ration not to be carried out without further Admty. instructions. (1 S.L. to F.O.C.N.A. 1835/25).

DELHI Your 1043/25 (no trace in W.R.) Probable routine of SIKORSKI at Libreville, Port Gentil. (F.O.I.C.S. to DELHI, 1817/25).

Have left French ship ALBI stopped position 000° 34' N. 008° 39' E. with prize crew on board. Crew tried to scuttle and fire ship. Fire is under reasonable control but sea cocks cannot be closed until fire is out. Have resumed patrol keeping V/S touch. Am endeavouring to get KELT to tow. (DELHI, 1557/25)

Exchange of Prisoners. Vichy Government states that our proposal for the exchange of prisoners can only apply to British nationals. Please pass urgently following message to French N.A.
Proposal of H.M.G. is for exchange of all prisoners taken by both sides without distinction. It is an essential condition of the exchange that (8 names) should be included. H.M.G. would take a most serious view of the matter if any irrevocable action was taken against Frenchmen named before conclusion of these negotiations.
(Hd. of M. 1809/25, to N.A. Madrid).

My 1809 to N.A. Madrid. You should inform Boisson of the terms of the communication which N.A. Madrid has been instructed to make to French N.A. (Hd. of M. 1810/25 to C.in C. S.A.)

North Atlantic.

Operation "Ration". See Operations Against Vichy French (1 S.L. 1835/25).

/ Spanish Shipping, ...
Italian Attacks.

MOST SECRET.

25.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Continued)

Spanish Shipping, Italian Attacks. — S.O.I., Gibraltar's 1734/24 to D.N.I. Signal text of document immediately. (1 S.L. to F.O.C.N.A. 2321/25) For text, see 26/10.

Enemy A/C. — Yesterday 25/10 one Martin recce. aircraft flying 22,000 ft. appeared over Rock 1055 hrs. no bombs dropped, A.A. fired three rds. Regret not reported yesterday. Few new Spanish Fd. Works north La Linea appearing. (Govr. Gib. 2305/26, to W.O.)

South Atlantic.

Suspicious Ship. — Admty. 2148/24 (requesting name of ship in his 1350 Z/24, re sighting of ship resembling REGENSBURG). Name of first ship is PORT HUNTER. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0710 B/25)

BRECONSHIRE — Admty. 2033/24. BRECONSHIRE left Capetown 0618/17 for Kilindini. Expected time of arrival a.m./23. My 0703/17 refers. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0857 Z/25 to Admty.)

KENYA. — Ran a main bearing during exercises 24/10. Sailing of ship and ORCADES will be delayed probably until p.m. 26/10. (C.in C. S.A. 1209/25).

DELHI. — Send ship to Lagos. I will clear your 1557/25 (not recd. in War Reg.) (C.S.1 to DELHI, 1745/25).

BULOLO. — My 1231/23. Amend route. (C.in C. S.A. to BULOLO, 1845).

Troop Movements, DRAGON. — My 1051/21 and 0131/23. Movement of troops from Takoradi and Lagos to Mombasa can now be deferred to synchronize with Convoy W.S.4A. Suggested DRAGON escorts WESTERNLAND to Freetown whilst escorting PENNLAND to Bathurst. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C. S.A., 1844/25).

SOTRA)
SOIKA)
SARNA)
SVANA) — Date of arrival Ponta Delgada. To proceed Bathurst, not St. Vincent. Not to pass within 20 miles of French territory. (D.O.D. (F) 2226/25)

MARITIMA — Overdue shipping, my C955 B/22. Arrived Durban (S.O.I. Capetown, 1125 B/25).

MOST SECRET.

25.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Italian Aircraft.	4 Cant. aircraft have now returned from Asmara to Rome via Benghazi. 1801/19 refers re 4 a/c from Dodecanese to Bahrein. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 0958/25 to Iraq).
Sunderlands, weather.	Weather difficult for Sunderlands to operate from Malta. In 10 days, not possible to fly off Ionian Sea reconnaissance on 5 occasions, thus gaps in patrol line. 6 Glen Martins due at Malta have not materialised. (C.in C. Med. 1133/25).
Operation M.A.Q.2.	Plans for, 25/10 to 28/10. F.O.1 B.S. with MALAYA, EAGLE, ORION, SYDNEY, COVENTRY and 8 destroyers. Convoy A.N.5 leave Port Said and Alexandria p.m./24 for Dardanelles escorted by CALCUTTA and 2 destroyers. (C.in C. Med.,1235/24, received 1915/25) Convoy A.N.5, Route. Escort CALCUTTA, HERO and HAVOCK (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1029/24).
"Uniform" cancelled.	Reply to my 1849/23 urgently required. Operation Uniform now cancelled and White Collar deferred until date given. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C. Med., 1818/25)
Enemy Units.	Enemy surface forces reported active off East Sicilian Coast. (Capt. S. 1, 1905/25)
Sidi Barrani Bombarded, APHIS	APHIS working in co-operation with R.A.F. carried out a successful 40 minute bombardment of enemy concentration 15 miles East of Sidi Barrani early on 25/10. Shells among motor transports causing much damage and igniting what appeared petrol dump. Fire was in due course opened from shore but ship was not hit. Intend issuing following communique: Naval force working in co-operation with the R.A.F. successfully attacked an enemy concentration near the coast East of Sidi Barrani early on 25/10. Enemy motor transport was destroyed and a large fire started in a fuel dump. No damage or casualties were sustained by our force. (C.in C. Med. 1931/25).
HOTSPUR, Repairs.	Your 1530/23 and Admty 1923/5. If HOTSPUR can be made fit to steam 17 knots it is for consideration that she should be sent to Malta for repairs during Operation WHITE COLLAR. (C.in C. Med. 1319/25, to F.O.C.N.A.)
Shipping Telegrams.	Consul General Thessaloniki in his telegram 021/19/10 reports, United Kingdom Commercial Corporation have sent telegrams "En Clair" concerning shipping movements. The Regular return ensuring safety of shipping is rendered doubly difficult by such indiscretions. Request Admiralty will arrange with M.E.W. for their communications to be passed through

/ diplomatic .....

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Shipping Telegrams. (Continued)

diplomatic or Consular channels. (C.in C. Med., 0025/25).

NARVAL.

Malta departure Friday 25/10 French Submarine NARVAL for patrol. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1903/25).

Combined Operations, Code Words.

Admty. 1055/22/9. By arrangements with Middle East a block of words beginning with A. has been allotted for use by Navy in operations affecting more than one service but in which Navy is predominant partner. Similarly operation orders may be issued by either R.A.F. or Army in which Navy may be taking part and which one of other services is chiefly affected. In this latter case an Army or R.A.F. allotted word would be used. Presume this is acceptable and that words given in Admty. 1055/22 will be confined to purely naval operations. (C.in C. Med. 2041/25 to Admty.)

East Indies.

Port Sudan Bombed.

A. 857 Para. 2, Sudan, 24/10 0500 hours. 1 Wellesley 14 Sqdn. convoy escort patrol off Port Sudan. No enemy sighted. 0645 hours 1 Wellesley 14 Sqdn. photographed destroyer sunk off Harmil Island after action against British Naval escort with convoy on 21/10. Heavy A.A. experienced from 2 ships in Bay. 0930 hours. 2 unidentified enemy aircraft attacked convoy in Port Sudan Harbour from 15,000 feet dropping 12 H.E. bombs. Negligible damage resulted. 23 natives killed some wounded. Fighters failed to intercept. (H.Q. R.A.F. ME. 1224/25).

West Africa A/C Patrols.

A. 857. 25/10 Para. 3 Kenya. 23/10 and 24/10 S.A.A.F. reconnoitred area Sololo Dobel Geldeza and Kismayu and carried out coastal patrols Mombasa and Zanzibar areas. Bombs dropped on enemy positions Dobel and Buna. 12 large ships with Askari and Kiongai Harbour Kismayu indicating 1 large ship arrived since 30/8. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1226/25).

A/S Destroyers.

Admty. 2356/24. 2 A/S destroyers would be required to reach Aden (date) (S.N.O. Red Sea, 0724 Z/25).

Air Report.

A. 708, to 1500/25. (A.H.Q. Aden 1833/25) No naval incidents.

/ Whale Catchers ....

MOST SECRET.

25.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

Whale Catchers. Your 0704/13. Whale catchers requisitioned Walvis Bay for local defence E.I. Station. (Hd. of M., 2054/25, to C.in C. E.I.)

GNAT. Admty., 1855/22 passed to all addressees, my 0804/24 is being passed for information to Authorities not previously addressed. GNAT reports intended onward programme after arriving Khor Kuwai. N.O.I.C. Basra forward minesweeping gear by direct route to Mediterranean if possible, otherwise via Bombay. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 0600 Z/25).

Convoy B.N.8. Route. List and details. Escort ANTENOR to 53° thence Force Q. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0842/25).

Convoy W.S.3.
CARTHAGE
CUMBERLAND
DORSETSHIRE

Convoys are not to pass within 40 miles of Guardafui in daylight. CARTHAGE is to rendezvous with CUMBERLAND and W.S.3 A at position A at time arranged by N.O.I.C. Simonstown when CARTHAGE will take over escort from CUMBERLAND and then escort to position (g) and then proceed to Aden. ERINPURA is to be detached to be detached to Mombasa as arranged by CARTHAGE. DORSETSHIRE will be required to escort W.S.3 B. in Red Sea as arranged by S.N.O. Red Sea. Passed to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area for information KENT and S.W.2 A. (C.in C. E.I., 0946 Z/25).

Defence of Ceylon. From discussions on co-ordination of command of defence forces in Far East which have now resulted in decision to create new appointment of C.in C. Far East, question of defence of Ceylon has arisen. Should Japan take offensive against Singapore threat of seaborne attack on Ceylon might arise. Scale of such attack might well necessitate reinforcement of Ceylon which could most conveniently be provided from India. Desirable that staff discussions should take place at early date between C.in C. India and yourself with Brigadier to assess requirements. In agreement with general policy regarding raising forces in India for overseas service it will be for H.M.G. to say whether such reinforcements should be raised specifically for this role and to issue orders for their despatch when need arises. (Colonial Office, 2300/25, to Govr. Ceylon).

MOST SECRET.

25.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Singapore Conference. Admty. 1815/24. U.S. officers as observers. (N.A. Washington, 1259/25).

America and West Indies.

NEPTUNIA Intercepted letter 25/9 from Itawa Nav. Co., Genoa, to La Guaira, showing 1500 cases olive oil from Italy arrived Barcelona in NEPTUNIA to be forwarded in ALDECOA to La Guaira. No dates of shipments given. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1635/25).

DIOMEDE My 1152/23. On passage to Trinidad show yourself during daylight off Pointe A Hapitre and Fort de France. (C.in C. A.W.I., to DIOMEDE, 1111/25).

U.S. Courses. My 1010/19. Navy Dept. now proposes 1 week at Sound School at San Diego followed by 2 weeks at Belle Isle Vue. Dates. (N.A. Washington, 1305/25).

Trinidad Naval Volunteer Force. Proposals re additional personnel required for observer training scheme, etc., and question of further expenditure being borne by Imperial funds. Strongly recommend reconsider decision in N. 10142/40, para.2 of 19/8, and that Force be taken over by Admty. (N.O.I.C., Trinidad, 1240/25).

Dutch Shipping. My 1316/19. New York reports Netherlands Committee have ordered all Netherlands Masters to disregard these telegrams. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1309/25).

French Shipping to Martinique. Following from New York (begins). Letter from French Line stating their Casablanca Office announces French Ship will be shortly available to take cargo from Casablanca to Martinique. Such letters have been sent to consignees of cargo ex REGULO, Norwegian Ship, which left Bordeaux with cargo for America just before French armistice and took refuge at Casablanca. Several applications for exemption from Admiralty's orders submitted through me in respect of items of this cargo are pending. No indication of regular service is contemplated. French Line endeavouring to give impression that no possibility of British interception exists and have told one enquirer that all goods would be American property and therefore not subject to seizure. They refuse all information as to identity of French Ship to be employed. (Ends.)
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1704/25 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET.

25.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Hospital Ships. In order to avoid congesting hospital accommodation with Australian and New Zealand forces both in Egypt and Bombay, Hospital ship MANUNDA will keep to approx. 10 week cycle between Australia and Suez lifting 400 cases each voyage. Proposals for using as ambulance transports QUEEN MARY AQUITANIA and MAURETANIA.
(A.C.N.B. 0845 Z/25 to C.in C. E.I., etc.)

Troop Transports. D. of S.T. 2213/23 and A.C.N.B. 1200/25. Australian troop requirements for January reduced to 10,000. Policy re future movements under discussion. (A.C.N.B. 1146 Z/25).

MOST SECRET.

25.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ANNELIESE ESSBERGER) ELSA ESSBERGER)	Both still at Kobe. (N.A. Tokyo, 1101/25).
KULMERLAND	Sailed from Kobe 10/10 as reported (N.A. Tokyo, 1101/25).
USARAMO	My 0826/23. Report (D.4) that she is in Coreubion Bay. (Consul, Vigo, 1318/25).
REGENSBURG	R.O., Yokohama, reports (C.3) now in Siberian port. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0844 Z/25).
LA PLATA BRAKE NORD ATLANTIC ACHILLES KARNAK LECH JOAO PESSOA	Report received (C. 3) that 1,000 empty oil drums have been transferred from LA PLATA to BRAKE which has in turn transferred 393 of them to NORD ATLANTIC ACHILLES, KARNAK, LA PLATA, plus LECH and JOAO PESSOA all appear to be ready for sea and may leave any night. (Consul, Vigo 1133/25).
OSORNO.	Dry docked Talcahuano 24/10. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1126/25).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

NEPTUNIA.	(See America and West Indies).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

CHARLES L.D.	My 1101/8. Following from air mail censorship. CHARLES L.D. and CANTAL now believed to have left Casablanca 11/10 for Martinique. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1802/25).

MOST SECRET.

25.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

SEDGEPOOL	British	5556 tons)	Now known to have been
FISCUS	British	4815 tons)	torpedoed in Convoy S.C.7,
THALIA	Greek	5875 tons)	times and positions not yet reported. (See 20/10).

CAIRNVALONA (H.X.79) damaged — CAIRNVALONA reports 7 feet water in No. 5 hold and 6 feet in No. 4 hold caused by near torpedo explosions when (H.X.79) convoy was attacked. Arrangements being made to effect repairs locally. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1142/25).

WANDBY (torpedoed 19/10) — British 4947 tons, Torpedoed 2240/19 45' N. 17° 07' W. Seen to sink, 600 fathoms. Crew of 34 landed Belfast today. No casualties or missing. Vessel hit by one torpedo port side. Neither submarine nor torpedo seen. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1720/25).

Submarines Reported.

0350. — 60° N., 20° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 416).

1908. — D.F., probable U/B. 57.50 N., 5.00 E., reliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1949/25).

1930. — D.F. probable U/B, 57° N., 5.00 E., reliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2010/25).

2130. — D.F. probable U/B, 48° - 49° N., 09.30 - 10.30 W. (V.A.S. 2153/25).

0855. — Submarine reported 5 miles N.W. of North Stack. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0855/25).

1243. — 57.55 N., 03.10 E., (D.S. 417) (Probably same U/B as 1908 and 1930 above).

1431. — 57.55 N., 04. 20 E., (D.S. 417). (Probably same U/B as 1908 and 1930 above)

1529. — 58.30 to 59.30 N., 16° to 22° W. position indefinite. (D.S. 417).

1529. — 48° to 49° N., 09.30 to 10.30 W. (D.S. 417).

MOST SECRET.

25.10.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Continued)

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian - 1 possibly N.W. of Spain making for Bordeaux.
German - 1 was in area 58 degs to 59 degs N: 17 degs to 20 degs W. at 1509/24.
1 was in about 60 degs N: 20 degs W at 0350/25. 4 more in N.W. Approaches or farther W; whereabouts unknown.
1 in Northern North Sea homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1220/25).

A/C E attacked S/M from about 500 ft. with bombs 58.21 N., 4.22 E., estimated 1 hit. S/M was observed to emit column of black smoke and stern rose in the air and dropped again. S/M was now stopped with list to port. On delivering attack bombs failed to drop but bubbles from S/M were clearly seen. Immediately prior to attack A/C J was on a course at right angles to A/C E and consequently had clear view of the result of attack launched by A/C E, when S/M was observed stationary listing to port, sinking lower in water and finally only top of S/M conning tower was visible. (A/C 223 Sqdn., 1220/25) (Donibristle, 1606/25).

1045. By a/c 56.04 N., 7.39 W., oil patch bombed, probably a wreck (D.S. 417).

1644. By a/c 61.20 N., 00.09 W., oil streak bombed. (D.S. 417).

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.10.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Search for Enemy Destroyers — WITCH and VOLUNTEER proceeded to sea from Portsmouth soon after midnight last night, on a report that enemy destroyers had sailed from Cherbourg, possibly to attack the Channel Convoy. The destroyers were not sighted.

BLYSKAWICA — was damaged in collision off Arran this evening. She reached Greenock.

Town Class Destroyers — BRADFORD, BROADWATER, BURNHAM and BURWELL arrived in the Clyde from U.S.A. this afternoon.

A/P Vessels — Arrangements are being made to replace by more seaworthy craft those A/P vessels which are unable to operate during the winter.

AUSTRALIA — Arrived in the Clyde today from Gibraltar.

As aircraft will from now on be co-operating with surface escorts of ocean convoys, ships in convoy are being informed not to open fire on aircraft at night when west of 7° W unless such aircraft are proved to be hostile.

British Air Activity

Coastal Command — Torpedo bomber aircraft this afternoon torpedoed and sank a merchant ship of about 2500 tons in the Aspo Fjord (Norway) Another smaller vessel was attacked in the same position, but results were not observed.

Coast Command aircraft early this morning attacked 5 merchant ships steering north about 45 miles west of the Helder. No definite results are reported

A merchant vessel 9 miles North of Ameland was attacked with torpedoes and possibly hit

5 Blenheims bombed and hit the power station at Brest today.

/Bomber Command....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.10.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

Swansea and Port Talbot were closed this evening.

Belfast was closed at 0156 and was fully opened at 1301, but ships are not to anchor in Belfast Lough.

Hartlepool was reopened at 1244.

Liverpool was closed at 1725.

STROMBUS (whale oil factory ship) was mined in Swansea Bay this afternoon and was beached.

DOSINIA (British tanker) was mined in the Mersey this afternoon and was beached.

KATANGA (Belgian Tanker) was also mined this afternoon in the Mersey and is afloat, anchored.

South Goodwin L.V. is presumed to have been sunk by a drifting mine about 0500 today. The crew were not on board.

Operations Against Vichy French

Outlines of a modus vivendi between Germany and the Vichy Government sent by N.A. Washington, show that the French Fleet will be employed ostensibly to insure freedom of communications between France and Norther Africa. Control of French ports in Mediterranean and North Africa will apparently be given to Germany.

N.A. Washington reports that the Navy Dept. inform him that STRASBOURG and other units returned to Toulon on 22/10, after carrying out exercises.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.10.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

ROYAL SOVEREIGN (after repairs at Durban) left Capetown at 1335/26 for Freetown.

WOOLWICH has boiler defects and will be unable to continue with Convoy W.S. 3. beyond the Cape, where she is to be repaired

Mediterranean

Submarines RAINBOW and TRIAD have been overdue since 19/10 and 20/10 and C. in C., Med. reports they must be considered lost.

East Indies

Assab was bombed at 0525 by 3 Blenheims which also dive bombed a vessel between Pieid and Umm Al Baher Island.

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Home Fleet. It is at your discretion to give Night Leave to a proportion of your Ships now at Rosyth and when this leave is completed to base the Battle Fleet at Scapa.
(1st S.L. 0115/26 to C.in C. H.F.).

Armed Merchant Cruisers. W/T Watch to be kept as follows. (D.S.D. 1133/26. A.C.M. 499a)

Auxiliary Patrol. The Auxiliary Patrol is to be maintained during the winter. Its duty remains firstly to report enemy craft, and secondly, toprevent them reaching our shores.

Arrangements are being made to replace by more seaworthy craft those A/P vessels which are unable to operate during the winter. (A.C.N.S. H. 1310/26 to C's-in-C).

Meeting on War Policy. Your 2028/25. Propose to attend myself, circumstances permitting. Items for agenda leaving by courier. (C.in C. H.F. 1916/26 to Adty.)
Should like following subjects raided. (a) Convoy Protection. (b) Policy as to use of Rosyth as Fleet Base and Naval Dockyard. (C.in C. Rosyth 1933/26 to Adty.)

C.in C. Portsmouth 1313/26) See Operations
C.in C. Nore 1350/26) Volume.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 0200/26. (D.C. 0201/26). At 1400/26. (D.C. 1428/26).

Nore Command. Notice for Steam. My 1119/23. Ships not required for duty today keep steam at 4 hours notice till 2000/26. (C.in C. Nore 1005/26).

Nore Command Leave. Following is repetition of my 1048/9 begins. Details. There must always be sufficient minesweepers available to clear the Approach Channel during night if some emergency requires it. Names of ships detailed to be reported. 1048/9. Ends.
(C.in C. Nore 1434/26 to Adty.)
Note. C.in C. Nore's 1117/26 refers.

Night leave in accordance with my 1048/9 may be given tonight Saturday except that only one destroyer is to give night leave at Sheerness.
AURORA and EREBUS may also give night leave (C.in C. Nore 117/26).

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Nore Command.	Dispositions for Night 26/27. (C.in C. Nore 0800/26 and 1642/26).
BURNHAM, BURWELL, BROADWATER, BRADFORD	Arrived and proceeded to Greenock. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 0910/26).
ARK ROYAL	My 1157/25. Request immediate confirmation of movements ordered in your 1559/25. Cancel instructions in Adty. 2156/24, para iii. (C.D.B. 1043/26 to ARK ROYAL).
CLEVELAND.	Pass Switha 0700/27, R/V at 0800 in 110° Duncansby Head 6 miles with SUNFISH escorted by SLEIPNER. Relieve SLEIPNER, escort SUNFISH East of Orkneys and Shetlands as by S.3. 1341/25, and return Scapa. (R.A.D. H.F. 1140/26 to CLEVELAND).
Dover.	Patrols for Night 26/27. (V.A. Dover 1420/26).
Orkneys.	Trawler Lines on 26/10. (A.C.O.S. 1536/26).
AUSTRALIA.	To keep steam at 4 hours notice till further orders. (C.in C. H.F. 1537/26 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
INTREPID) ICARUS)	Will act as Escort for B.S. 43 (C.in C. Nore 1750/26).

Operations.

WITCH VOLUNTEER	Enemy Destroyers reported sailed from Cherbourg which may be after the Convoy. Patrol between 49° 56'N., 0° 50' W. and 50° 11' N. 0°50' W., returning to pass Nab at daylight. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0012/26 to WITCH, VOLUNTEER) (C.in C. Portsmouth 0017/26 to H.Q.C.C., and Capt. S.5. 0030/26 to SWORDFISH).
Convoy C.W.15 shelled.	2 shells fell at 1745/25 and 23 shells between South Goodwin and Folkestone Gate. (V.A. Dover 0941/26 to Adty.)
Dover shelled.	Between 2104 and 2206/25, 20 shells fell in and near Dover Harbour of which 4 in town. Casualties, 1 naval injured, 1 military injured, civilians 2 killed and 4 injured. Most of firing from a single gun near Calais. Only 2 or 3 salvoes from Wissant and Framzelle. (V.A. Dover 0941/26 to Adty.)

/ Tyne .....

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued)

Tyne. One Flying Boat in 54° 51'N. 1° 9'W. Am engaging. (VERDUN 1835 and 1835 and 1849/26) Enemy disappeared Eastward (VERDUN 1901/26).

ALERT. A.M. 1142/24. Anticipate ALERT ready to sail P.M./1st, having been docked. (C.in C. W.A. 1902/26 to Adty.)

Submarines.

CLYDE. To be temporarily attached to 2nd S/M. Flotilla until commencement of refit. (V.A.S. 1041/26).

WILK. Report of Norwegian Coast 14 to 20/10. (V.A.S. 1109/26 to Adty.)

H.43. Exercising in Plymouth S/M Area. (C.in C. W.A. 1444/26).

Greenock Area. Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1615/26).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0700/27. (V.A.S. 1641/26).

SWORDFISH) UNIQUE) SWORDFISH in W.2. UNIQUE arrives Position W. from westward at 0930/27. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1707/26).

SUNFISH. Will be met off Duncansby Head at 0800/27 by CLEVELAND and escorted to patrol area North of Shetlands. (A.C.O.S. 1802/26).

British Air Activity.

Orkneys. (HC. Patrol) A.C.O.S. 1818/19/9. Times for Patrol HC. from 28/10 to 3/11 inclusive. (Hatston 1155/26 to A.C.O.S.)

Balloon Barrages at Plymouth and Milford Haven. Re conference at Plymouth on 21/10, following possibilities should be investigated at Plymouth. (Air Ministry 1325/26 to Air Commands.)

Balloon Barrage Vessels in Tyne. My 1540/13. Air Ministry concurs in alteration of positions of Balloon Barrage Vessels to be effected by Balloon Command. (D. of L.D. 1656/26 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

Rosyth Area. Air Escorts for 27/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 1906/26).

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Firth of Forth. Air Raids on Forth Area A.M. today from 0220 to 0400. Number of Mines believed dropped. Enemy heavily engaged by gunfire. No damage or casualties reported. (C.in C. Rosyth 0415/26 to Adty.)

EMPRESS OF BRITAIN. British, 42,348 tons. Bombed 54° 53' N. 10° 49' W. (EMPRESS OF BRITAIN 0925/26 to Scapa W/T). S.O.S. at 0830. B.S.T. in 54° 45' N. 11° 19'W. (EMPRESS OF BRITAIN 0935/26) Port Patrick Radio reports intercept at 0846 G.M.T. EMPRESS OF BRITAIN now taking to boats. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0952/26 to Adty.) Detach 2 Destroyers to investigate. (C.in C. W.A. 0957/26 to ECHO) Taking to boats (EMPRESS OF BRITAIN, Received 0957/26). Position at 0952 was 55° 8' N. 10° 46' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1018/26 to SEAMAN) Sailed Tugs (? SEAMAN) and THAMES from Campbeltown at 1050 (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1102/26 to C.in C. W.A.) Raider left about hour ago here. Lifeboat West of Inishtrahull (Port Patrick Radio 1135/26) Your 0957. Position 297° Tory Island Light 21 miles course 245° at 24 knots. BURZA in company. (ECHO 1200/26 to C.in C. W.A.) BROKE and SARDONYX sailed (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1208/26 to Adty.) EMPRESS OF BRITAIN abandoned. Floating on an even keel. Fire subsiding but ship gutted out. Consider hull can be towed. Am picking up survivors and carrying asdic sweep. (ECHO 1640/26 to C.in C. W.A.) Trawlers PAYNTER, DRANGEY, CAPE ARGONA in company. ECHO and BURZA returning to Clyde with all survivors. Tugs SEAMAN, MARAUDER, THAMES, and RAIDER proceeding. (C.in C. W.A. 1949/26 to BROKE, CAIRO) BROKE and SARDONYX patrolling near Ship. Trawler returning to harbour (BROKE 2043/26 to C.in C. W.A.) ETA. Cumbrae 0715. BURZA in company with 200 survivors, 5 seriously injured, 8 dead. ECHO about 370 survivors, 7 seriously injured, 2 dead. CAPE ARGONA proceeding Londonderry with 4 women survivors of whom one seriously wounded. (ECHO 2205/26 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

AVANCE. N.O.I.C. Aberdeen reports enemy Seaplane fired Torpedo at Examination Vessel AVANCE at 1915/25 in Examination Anchorage, Aberdeen. Missed close astern. (C.in C. Rosyth 1157/26 to Adty.) Heinkel 115 returned and exchanged M.G. fire with AVANCE and disappeared to westward. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1231/26 to C.in C. Rosyth).

/ Chatham .....

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity.

Chatham. — Air Raid at 0130/26. Damage estimate £500. (Supt. C.E. Chatham 1405/26)

Arbroath. — Air Raid P.M./25. Damage estimate £4000. (S.C.E. Arboath 1717/26).

Lossiemouth. — Banff reports Bombs on Lossiemouth Aerodrome at 1825. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1912/26 to Adty.)

Sheerness. — 952 Sqdn. R.A.F. reports that at 2035 three Bombs fell and exploded in area bounded by Balloon Drifters in following position. (X.D.O. Sheerness 2255/26 to C.in C. Nore).

LONDONDERRY — Bombed in 51° 42' N. 1° 21' E. 4 bombs no hits. One large explosion on Gunfleet Sands probably mine (LONDONDERRY 1104/26)

Mining.

Plymouth. — Closed, owing to suspected Minealying by A/C (C.in C. W.A. 0042/26).

Belfast. — Closed, owing to suspected Minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0156/26) Port now open to outward traffic only. Ships to keep to Searched Channel and anchorage forbidden in Belfast Lough Area. Inward bound Mail Steamers may enter if proceeding to berth (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1115/26) Port open to all inward Ships proceeding divert to berth and to outward Ships divert to sea. No Ship may anchor in Belfast Lough. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1301/26). Port of Saint Dennis now open and Ships may anchor in Bangor Bay, south of Swept Channel. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1545/26) LL detonated one large Red Mine 020° 17 cables from Greypoint. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1700/23 to Adty.)

Rosyth. — Approaches to Rosyth between 2° 52' W. and Forth Bridge are closed. Ports of Leith and Granton Approaches are closed. Methil open. (C.in C. Rosyth) 0421/26 to Adty.) Approaches to Rosyth between west gate Inchkeith and Forth Bridge are open. Ports of Leith and Granton are open. Precautions. Examination anchorage West of Inchkeith, and Granton Roads, are not clear. (C.in C. Rosyth 1301/26). Approach to Rosyth between West Gate Inchkeith and 2° 52' W. open. D.G. Range area closed. (C.in C. Rosyth 1521/26 to Adty.)

/ Tyne .....

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued)

Tyne. Ground Magnetic Mine detonated by LL. at 0820 in 107° 4 cables of North Pier Light. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0845/26 to D.M.S.) Ground Magnetic Mine detonated by LL. at 1005 in 124° 3½ cables of South Pier Light. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1015/26 to D.M.S.)

Humber. Magnetic Mine detonated by LL at 0010/25 in 162° 1.3 miles from Spurn Point Lighthouse (F.O. Humber 1050/26).

Hartlepool. Closed. (C.in C. Rosyth 1234/26) Port now open. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1244/26 to Adty.)

Swansea) Ports now closed owing to Magnetic Mines.
Port Talbot) (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1711/26 to Adty.)

STROMBUS Norwegian Oil-Refinery, 6549 tons. Mined in Swansea Bay at 1658. She is being beached. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1724/26 to Adty.) Amended position of casualty 112° 2.2 miles from Mumbles Lt. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1140/27).

Liverpool. Port closed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1725/26).

KATANGA. Belgian, 5183 tons. Damaged by explosion, possibly Mine, about 3 cables 100° from Pillar Buoy, Queens Channel, at 1645. Possibility of internal explosion being investigated as position thoroughly swept and many vessels have been over and close to it. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1741/26 to Adty.) Hope bring ship into harbour A.M./28 Engine Room flooded. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1624/27).
Docked and unloading cargo (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1535/28)

DOSINIA. British Tanker, 8053 tons. Mined near Q 1. Black Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1857/26 to C.in C. W.A.) Badly damaged. Salvage doubtful. 4 injured, one seriously. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1624/27 to Adty.) Aground. Salvage in hand (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1535/28).

B.S.43. Cancel my 2144/24 (ICARUS and IMPULSIVE to escort B.S.43) INTREPID and ICARUS will act as Escort (C.in C. Nore 1750/26 to D.20).

JERSEY) Adty. 1433/25 and my 1510/25. Intend sail
MACKAY) ships in company on 28/10 to arrive Plymouth 0745/29. (C.in C. Nore 2208/26 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Off Helder.	At 0705, five M/V's in 52°55' N. 3° 30' E. steering North at 12 to 14 knots. A/C report. (V.A.S. 1031/26 to S/M. H. 49).
Brest.	Apparently now 8 Destroyers. (P.R.U. St. Eval 1230/26 to H.Q.C.C.) Positions of 8 Destroyers confirmed. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 2015/26 to H.Q.C.C.)
Emden.	18 M/V's in harbour, including a 600-foot Liner. Also 50 Barges. To be attacked by A/C on night 26/27. (H.Q.C.C.1400/26 to 16 Group North Coates).
Boulogne) Dunkirk) Ostend)	Shipping seen at 0845/26. P.I.U. 1500/26 to N.I.D.)
Off Hardanger.	Hatston A/C. report Danish M/V. POLAR FAIRD in 59° 52' N. 3° 54' W. steering 290° at 8 knots at 0824. (A.C.O.S. 1603/26 to Adty.)
Bordeaux) Gironde)	Warships and M/V's seen on 25/10. (P.I.U. 2325/26 to N.I.D.)

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

WOOLWICH	Boiler defects. (See South Atlantic).
CHULMLEIGH	Due Durban 22/10, not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 0905/26).
BEAGLE	Available for service during repairs, expected to complete p.m./29. (F.O., Greenock, 1204/26, F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1751/26).
BLYSKAWICA	Polish destroyer, in collision with trawler 5¼ miles 140° Plada Light. Stern and steering gear damaged (ESCAPADE, 2100/26, BLYSKAWICA, 2204/26, F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0032/27).
Destroyer aground.	SCHELDE to proceed Londonderry to refloat a destroyer aground there (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2333/26) SCHELDE sailed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0030/27).

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys

O.B. 233 — To alter course at 1600 to avoid U/B. (C.in C. W.A., 1241/26)

S.L. 51. — 20 hours late at R.V. ALCANTARA to contact slow 51 at daylight 28/10, 2 portions of convoy combing at daylight 29/10. (ALCANTARA 0805/27) Route. (D.T.D. 1634/26).

O.A. and O.B. 234. — To join, position. (C.in C. W.A. to ROCHESTER, PRIMROSE, ARROW, etc., 1009/26).

S.C.9. — Date. Escort DEPTFORD. (D.T.D. to C.in C. W.A. 1607/26).

F.N. and F.S. — Forecast of sailings and escorts (C.in C. Rosyth, 1103/26).

H.X. 81. — Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 2315/26 to ABERDEEN, CALDWELL, WALKER, GLOXINIA, VANSITTART, CALENDULA, GARDENIA.)

Aircraft to Escort Ocean Convoys. — Ref. TD/N/2/413 and AMSI 164, as aircraft will from now on be co-operating with surface escorts of ocean convoys, ships in convoy are to be informed that they are not to open fire on aircraft at night when west of seven degrees west unless such aircraft are proved to be hostile. (D.T.D. 2115/26 to A.Z. Message 913)

F.N. and F.S. Removal of additional Escorts. — C.in C. Nore 2120/25. Regret possibility of additional escorts for FN and FS convoys between Aldeburgh Light Float and Outer Dowsing being removed. This area is a happy hunting ground for E Boats and comparative little success they have obtained has been largely due to the support C.in C. Nore has given. Ships in this area at night carry out the dual purpose of convoy protection and anti-invasion. Should they be reduced in number the Germans will quickly discover a further soft spot in our convoy system and exploit it to the full.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1117/26, to Admty.)

Shortage of Escort ships is fully appreciated and will be remedied as soon as resources permit. Ref. C.in C. Nore's final sentence, intention is to operate these convoys as nearly as possible on an eight day cycle. (D.A/S.W.2201/26).

W.S.4A. — Date of leaving U.K. and list. Ocean escort BERWICK and CORNWALL from Clyde. Fighter Command code word Olive.
(D.O.D. (H) 2108/26).

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Following information provided by Navy Department.

Enemy Intelligence. Reliable Officer in Spanish Destroyer CHURRUCA reports having sighted 6 days ago off Alicante French troop transports loaded to capacity headed for Africa.

Dakar. From Dakar. 19/10. CROIX sailed for Casablanca. 20/10 SINALA, MARRAKECH, MARECHAL LYAUTEY and 3 other vessels arrived from Casablanca. Ships carried great amount War material and food supplies. Martial law ended in Dakar Community and feeling growing there that only hope for France lay in Colonies remaining solidly under Petain.

Far East. Fror Berlin. Unverified rumour from N.A. German ships in Chinese and Russian Ports ordered proceed quietly to Japanese Ports. 60 German Navy and Air Officers ordered to Japan to oversee selection and construction of fuel depots and bases. Material being sent in Chinese Junks to Saipan and Formosa.

STRASBOURG My 1745/21 these vessels reported to have returned to Toulon 22/10 after exercising in vicinity. (N.A. Washington, 1251/26).

Following received.

Intelligence (contd.) Dakar. (?Vichy 17/10. French Naval sources state that one group of Latecoere torpedo aircraft's moved to Dakar from Bizerta. Understood there are now at Dakar four groups of bombers particularly Glenn and totalling about 60 and one Curtiss pursuit group totalling about 15.

Dakar 24/10. Mainland forces at Dakar; battleship RICHELIEU; two cruisers; five destroyers two submarines three flying boats and auxiliary vessels. 40 Martin bombers and at least 32 Curtiss pursuit planes based Oualsan and Thies.

Beyrout. Beyrout 18/10. Two French ships left yesterday with 5500 reservists on board. Two additional convoys, each about same capacity, are expected to evacuate reservists shortly.

Saigon. Saigon 21/10. French war vessels LAMOTTE PIQUET and ADMIRAL CHARNER left Saigon for Camranh Bay for manoeuvres. D'ARTAGNAN sailed for Manila and Kobe.

/ German Appeasement. .....

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (Continued)

German Appeasement. Vichy 23/10. Understood outlines of a modus vivendi between Germany and Vichy Government were in principle definitely agreed. French Fleet will be employed ostensibly to insure freedom of communications between France and Northern Africa. Control of French Ports in Mediterranean and North Africa will apparently be given to Germany. (N.A. Washington, 1500/26 to Admty.)

ALBI Scuttled. DELHI's 1951/25. Intend crew of ALBI be handed over to Duala authorities for interrogation and custody. Leclerc proposed to give same guarantee as in case of crew of TOUAREG but requests help in carrying out repatriation (C.S.1 to Admty., 1701 A/26).

DEVONSHIRE DELHI Until situation clarifies, consider I should remain in touch with Leclerc. No accommodation available locally. Intend DEVONSHIRE to relieve DELHI on patrol on 28/10 and transfer my flag temporarily to latter. (C.S.1 to Admty., 1718 A/26).

DELHI Supplies of fuel and stores. Request early opportunity of visiting Lagos to take in provisions, give leave and clean boiler. (DELHI, 2307/26).

North Atlantic.

Air Reconnaissance. Daily Summary Operations (200 Group, 1701/26). No incidents.

ARK ROYAL GLASGOW Destroyers. PASTEUR. Admty. 2156/24 C.in C. W.A. to sail ARK ROYAL, DUNCAN, FEARLESS, FOXHOUND, ISIS and PASTEUR to Gibraltar on 30/10.
C.in C. H.F. to sail GLASGOW as necessary to R/V with above.
C.in C. W.A. to arrange escorts R/V and routeing.
On arrival at Gibraltar, ARK ROYAL is to rejoin Force 'H', GLASGOW is to be attached temporarily to Force 'H' and destroyers are to join 13th D.F.
Fighter Command Code Word ROBIN.
PASTEUR is to be sailed for U.K. as soon as possible after disembarking.
(D.O.D.(H) 2109/26).

Spanish Shipping, Italian U/B Attacks. Admty. 2321/25. Following is translation of text of document. (Refers to orders to S/M Group Commander, Augusta, that ships flying Spanish flag belonging to Ybarra and Pinillos Shipping Companies leaving Casablanca and proceeding towards Lisbon are to be attacked without warning.) (F.O.C.N.A. to Admty. 0148/26).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

PENNLAND
WESTERNLAND
CARNARVON CASTLE

Your 1844/25. As all movements of troops and ships have already started and PENNLAND cannot be delayed, intend subject to concurrence of C.in C. East Indies that movements of H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE and WESTERNLAND shall proceed as arranged. As C.in C. East Indies will provide escort from Cape, H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE will be freed earlier. (C.in C. S.A., 0946/26, to Admty.
Concur your 0946, (C.in C. E.I. 1846/26).

WOOLWICH

Boiler defects. Essential to have 36 hours at both Capetown and Durban. Appears will be unable to continue with W.S.3. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0830 Z/26).
Your 2339/18 and N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0830/26. W.S.3 is not to be delayed on account of WOOLWICH. If no escort available may be sailed unescorted as far as Aden. (D.O.D. (F) to C.in C. S.A. 2304/26).

CHULMLEIGH

Overdue shipping, due Durban 22/10 from Brisbane, not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 0905/26).

W.S. 4A

My 2326/10. An A.M.C. may be required to take over escort of W.S.4A from Freetown. (D.O.D. (F) to C.in C. S.A. and E.I. 2006/26).

SOTRA)
SOIKA)
SARNA)
SVANA)

On leaving Ponta Delgada to proceed to Bathurst, not St. Vincent as previously ordered. Not to pass within 20 miles of French territory. (Hd. of M., to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 2010/26).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Capetown departure 1335/26, ROYAL SOVEREIGN for Freetown by direct route in accordance your 1305/15. Date of arrival. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown to C.in C. S.A. 1340/26).

FRANCONIA.

Sailed for Clyde 1400/25. 112 troops, 87 naval ratings, etc. (N.O.I.C. Freetown, 2025 N/26).

Mediterranean.

RAINBOW
TRIAD
Overdue

RAINBOW and TRIAD are now overdue since 19/10 and 20/10 respectively and must be considered lost.
TRIAD has not been in company with Capt. S) 1 yet. List is as she left U.K. subject to any amendment by F.O.C.N.A., or V.A. Malta.
Italian press claimed U Boat TOTI sank a Perseus class Submarine on 14/10 which may have been RAINBOW. Nothing is known of TRIAD's loss. Both S/Ms. were ordered to patrol off Gulf of Taranto returning to

/Alexandria .....

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued).

RAINBOW TRIAD Overdue (Contd.)	Alexandria along Libya Coast. RAINBOW was directed into Straits at Otranto for a few days. (C.in C. Med., 0943/26.)
Enemy Unit.	Reconnaissance 167(?). At 0055 G.M.T./26 enemy warship, type unknown escorting 2 or more steamships, was hove to off coast of Sicily probably on an approx. bearing 024° from Malta. (Capt. O.S. Alexandria, 0941/26, to Capt. i/c Malta).
Greek Co-operation	A.T. 1742/7. Need for suitable recognition signals. Suggestions. (C.in C. Med., 1206/26).
Air Operations APHIS	M.E. Operational Summary No. 138 up to 1200 hours 26/10. Para 1 Egypt. Attacks continued on enemy forward positions in Western Desert and rear bases with following results night 24/25/10 0245 hours 1 Blenheim 211 Squadron bombed enemy position at Maktila from 6000 feet in co-operation with bombardment from sea by APHIS. 2 flares were dropped and incendiaries straddled target starting large fires petrol dump believed ignited. Day 25/10 following attacks made on Tobruk. 0835 hours 4 Blenheims 55 Squadron with 2 Blenheims 84 Squadron dropped bombs among M.T. end supply dumps on north end of aerodrome. Intense A.A. fire experienced 1 enemy fighter was shot down down unconfirmed over Tobruk Blenheim 84 Squadron forced landed 45 miles West Mersa Matruh crew safe. 9 Blenheims 113 Squadron straddled North Foreshore with bombs demolishing buildings in Naval Barracks Area. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1227/26).
Enemy Intelligence ZAFFIRO	Information received from Turkish General Staff concerning Leros. Reliable source dated 22/10. Naval Stores formerly at Lapetha Cove moved to Critani village south side of Alinda Bay owing to British bombing, now stowed in private houses. Submarines ZAFFIRO, BEILUL, JALEA four to five days overdue. One other Italian submarine sunk off Leros cause and name unknown. (N.A. Angora, 1302/26).

/ Convoy Reports .....

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Convoy Reports. Fully in agreement with C.in C. East Indies 1320/25. Publicity concerning movements of convoys can only have harmful effect as has been demonstrated both in Red Sea and Mediterranean. Italians must have a shrewd idea we are building up supplies and troops in the Middle East and the more he has to give rein to a probable apprehensive imagination the better. (C.in C. Med., 1649/26).

Italian Bombs. Italians using small incendiary bomb. Description. (D.U.B.D. Admty. General Message 1303/26).

Aircraft, Malta. Your 1133/25. 1 E. of 431 Flight increased to 7 and sufficient Glen Martins to fill this establishment with reserves being flown out to Malta. First aircraft expected to leave tonight. (D.N.A.D. to C.in C. Med., 1625/26).

Shipping Intelligence, Leakage. Precautions necessary to prevent leakage of shipping intelligence to enemy through Japanese channels. Arrangements. (Hd.of M. 1750/26, to C.in C's Med., E.I., China, etc.)

Malta, Reinforcement. Plans for reinforcing Malta (military). (1 S.L. to C.in C. Med. 1838/26). Reply of C.in C. giving date, etc. (C.in C. Med., 2205/26) (See Mediterranean Volume).

W.S.3. DORSETSHIRE Your 1122/23, movements of Red Sea convoys. Approved for W.S.3 slow and fast to merge from point of overtaking and to be escorted by DORSETSHIRE to Suez. On arrival Suez, DORSETSHIRE to sail for Durban to rest until required to take over escort of W.S.4 B from CUMBERLAND. (D.O.D. (F) to C.in C. E.I., 2359/26).

Dodecanese Supplies Food shortage. Suggesting Greeks place obstacles to Italian exports from Tijani (Wolfson, Beyoglu, to C.in C. Med., 1745/26).

A.T. 2051/25. Available information suggests following:-

Italian Shipping Routes.

(a) Direct routes from Messina Otranto or Sicily do not appear to be used except by hospital ships.
(b) Considered majority of traffic passes to the Westward of Sicily and Lampedusa thence via Tripoli (Africa) to

/ Benghazi .....

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Italian Shipping Routes. (contd.)

Benghazi.
(c) Submarine patrols on Sicilian coast and South of Gulf of Taranto have drawn blanks except for occasional warship sightings.
(d) Submarine patrols have been maintained off Benghazi and off Misusata without result. Recent capture enemy coastal route information hoped to give better results.
(e) Reconnaissances show that ships do enter and leave Benghazi but no evidence to show that there is even as much traffic as must be necessary to maintain troops already in Libya.
(f) Results have been obtained against coastal traffic from Benghazi to Derna and Tobruk but this now seems to have almost ceased. Our submarines and aircraft have taken toll of their traffic and R.A.F. and F.A.A. have done much to make Tobruk untenable. Route has also been (? mined) in three places.
(g) Not considered that enemy move large convoys. One two or three ships with one destroyer are common. (C.in C. Med., 2233/26).

My 2233/26. Add paragraph (H). Above must be regarded as largely supposition as there is insufficient evidence to form a firm opinion. (C.in C. Med. 0933/27).

East Indies.

QUEEN MARY
AQUITANIA
MAURETANIA

Your 1921/5. Request confirmation they are to return to Sydney on completion of discharging at Bombay. (P.S.T.O. Bombay to D. of S.T. 0402 Z/26).

NEPTUNE

Result of search of Southern Ocean islands 11/10 to 21/10. (NEPTUNE, 0503 Z/26). General remarks (NEPTUNE, 1416 Z/26).

SHROPSHIRE
KANDAHAR

Expect to arrive at 0900/26. (SHROPSHIRE 0601 Z/26 to N.O.I.C. Aden).

MOGAMIGAWA MARU.

My 1020/15. Intercepted letter discloses loaded unlicensed opium at Bushire night of 1-2/10, distinction believed Far East. (C.in C. E.I., 0642/26).

/ PAN EUROPE. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

PAN EUROPE interception by NEPTUNE.

N.O.i/c Simonstown's 0927 Z/10. It is confirmed NEPTUNE intercepted PAN EUROPE. Her position, course speed and appearance all indicated she was the vessel referred to in Admiralty 0146/8.
(NEPTUNE, 0505/26).

GNAT.

S.N.O. Persian Gulf 0600/25. Intended programme. (GNAT, 1420/26).

A.710 26/10.
Daily Intelligence Summary No.136 and Operational Summary. Following for 24 hours ending 1500/26/10. 3 Blenheims, 8 Squadron individual bombing Assab 0525 (1) Workshops, 4 250's in target area. (2) Naval headquarters large bombs near misses small bombs in naval barracks. (3) Low dive bombing attack on vessel between Pield 36 and Umm Al Baher Island, nearest bomb approx. 4 yards. Blenheims 203 Squadron fighter escort for convoy B.S.7 using Kamaran as advanced base. 2 Gladiators 94 Squadron standing patrol Aden 0720 to 0845. No casualties, all times G.M.T.
(A.H.Q. Aden, 1947/26).

China.

I. 67 Japanese.

Japanese Submarine. Officially announced today lost with all hands in Tokyo Bay, 29/8/40. (N.A. Tokyo, 1012/26).

Singapore Conference.

Comdr. A.C. Thomas, U.S.N., to attend as observer, (unofficially) (1 S.L., 1531/26).

America and West Indies.

Suspicious W/T. INGN VLASSOPOL

Your 1433/17. Rumanian INGN VLASSOPOL investigated. Results. (N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B. 1246/26).

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

SVANEFJELL — Late Norwegian, may pass your latitude northbound tonight or tomorrow. (V.A.S. to Netherlands S/M 0.24, 1011/26).

USARAMO — Left Vigo a.m./23, reported (D.4) in Corcubion Bay, Cape Finisterre, 25/10. (D.D.I.C. 1015/26 to F.O.C.N.A., etc.)

KARNAK. — B.3 report, will leave tonight possibly for Ferrol for overhaul. (Consul, Vigo, 2042/26).

VANCOUVER)
PATRICIA) — Curacoa reports prize ships renamed CURACAO, ARUBA and BONAIRE respectively. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1036/26).
HENRY HORN)

CORDELIA)
ARKADIA) — Left Galtaz 23/10 in ballast for Russia. (D.S. 417).
ITHAKA)

SALZBURG — Arrived Galatz 23/10 from Istanbul with general cargo. (D.S. 417).

SAARLAND. — Shanghai report, sold to Mitsubishi, Tokyo, in August. (D.S. 417).

NORDERNEY — Pernambuco report 24/10 that 1000 tons of coal being shipped in Brazilian AFFONSO PENNA, due Para 30/10, presumably for NORDERNEY (D.S.417).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

AEQUITAS. — Brazilian Government have notified intention to move Italian AEQUITAS refugee at Ceara, to Rio de Janeiro where her cargo coal consigned Rio de Janeiro and paid for is badly needed. They are prepared to put Brazilian Naval Officer on board for voyage if desirable. I warned Chief of Naval Staff that ship remains liable to capture unless properly interned for duration or unless H.M.G. makes special case. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1606/26).

REX
CONTE DI SAVOIA — Reported merchant shipping laid up in Istria Channel has been moved. REX was recently reported at Pola and CONTE DI SAVOIA at Venice. (D.S. 418).

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

FISCUS
SNEFJELD
THALIA
(torpedoed in S.C.7.)

Survivors landed by CLEMATIS state that FISCUS British SNEFJELD Norwegian, and THALIA Greek, were sunk on 18/10 and 19/10. Survivors were picked up on 23/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 2125/26).

SNEFJELD, Norwegian, 1644 tons, torpedoed and sunk on 18/10. 21 survivors, including four wounded, landed at Methil 26/10. (D.S. 418).

Submarines Reported.

0904. D.F. probably U/B 58° N., 6° E., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 0942/26).

1607. Am over enemy submarine in 55.52 N., 8.47 W. (Aircraft 502 Sqdn., 1607/26) (A.C. W.A. 1803/26).

1657. One Italian U/B, course 295°, 46.38 N., 10.20 W. (URSULA, 1657/26)

1447. 56° to 57° N., 16° to 18° W. at 1447/27. (C.in C. W.A. 1555/27).

1450. 55.05 N., 8.25 W., reported by aircraft. Boat with 2 men seen close by. (D.S. 418).

1107. 58° N., 12° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 418).

1119. 58° N., 6.20 E., position indefinite. (D.S. 418).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian - 1 reported to be Italian was in 46° 38' N. 10° 20' W. at 1657/26 course 295°.

German - Possibly 1 W. of Ireland moving northwards.
Probably 1 in area 58° to 60° N. and W. of 20° W.
1 may have been in 55° 52' N. 8° 47' W. at 1604/26.
1 was possibly off Torglass Island 6 miles S.W. of Bloody Foreland at 1450/26, communicating with shore.
2 more in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
1 in Skagerrak about 48 miles W. of the Skaw at 0938/27 homeward bound; may be damaged.
(D.D.I.C. 1226/27).

MOST SECRET.

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

1600. By aircraft 55.52 N., 08.47 W. (Aircraft 502 Sqdn., 1607/26, C.in C. W.A., 1801/26) ARROW and ROCHESTER informed. (C.in C. W.A., 2137/26).
Aircraft report from Aldergrove (begins).
To C.in C. W.A. from SHIKARI
Your 1801/26. Attack by aircraft was seen. Bomb falling close to feather which in the prevailing sea looked like a periscope feather. Similar feathers were seen at the same time over a large arc. These were porpoises. A/S Sweep was carried out within five minutes of aircraft attack.
Porpoise noises only heard. Aircraft informed accordingly. (Ends.) T.O.O. 2036/26. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1830/27).

Italian.

ZAFFIRO)
BEILUL)
JALEA)
Reported overdue. (See Mediterranean, Enemy Intelligence).

Forbidden Area. Surface ships are not to attack submarines unless hostile identity is established in the area enclosed by the following positions:-
60° 50' N. 01° 10' W. 60° 50' N. 0° 40' W.
61° 50' N. 0° 20' W. 61° 50' N. 01° 30' W.
from 2300/27 until further notice.
(D.O.D. (H) 1710/26)

Assessments. Your 1119/21. Assessment of attacks made by Force H and North Atlantic Command will be made by Admiralty.
All other attacks in Mediterranean should be assessed by you, assessments given in para.2 of my 1727/21 being used.
Your assessments are requested on the following aircraft attacks:-

Date	Aircraft	Position	Reference
(a) 5th July	813 Squadron	Tobruk	Your 1931-6th July.
(b) 12th July	228 Squadron	36° 48' N. 15° 54' E.	H.Q. Med's.1816 13th July.
(c) 12th July	201 Group	30' South of Cotrone.	H.Q. Med's.1655 12th July.

(D. A/S.W. 1716/27 to C.in C. Med.) (698)

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.10.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Destroyers Sweep to intercept M.V's	VANOC, VOLUNTEER and FERNIE left Portsmouth at 2145 today to intercept 8 camouflaged motor vessels of 500 tons which were reported off the Cotentin Peninsula steering 80° at 10 knots.
SWORDFISH attacks	SWORDFISH attacked this convoy this evening off Cherbourg and estimated one hit.
ARETHUSA Damaged	ARETHUSA was damaged early this morning in collision with a ship in Convoy E.N.12 North of Kinnaird Head. Repairs will take about 3 weeks.
Shipping in N.W. Approaches	C. in C. Western Approaches has made certain proposals to minimise the danger of air attack on fast single ships, based on the experience of attacks to date in the N.W. Approaches and North Channel
Enemy Intelligence	The main trend of merchant shipping in the Channel ports today was eastwards. This is the first considerable movement seen going east.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.10.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Flushing, Anterp and Calais were attacked with success last night. Bremen shipyards docks at Cuxhaven, Hamburg and an unidentified dockyard in North West Germany were attacked, but results were not seen.

13 mine sweepers 12 miles north of Terschelling were bombed, one bomb bursting under the stern of one of the vessels.

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy O.B. 234 was attacked in 55° 56' N., 12° 10' W., this morning. ALFRED JONES (5013 tons) was hit.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.10.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

2 Hampdens last night laid mines in the Gironde Estuary.

Enemy aircraft minelaying activity was fairly continuous between 2100/26 and 0100/27, extending from the Thames Estuary to the Firth of Forth, and being more intense in the Forth to Hartlepool area.

SS MARGARETHA (Dutch 325 tons) was mined and sunk in the Bristol Channel this morning.

PERSEVERE, a small motor boat, tender to X D O Inchkeith was mined and sunk this afternoon off the Firth of Forth.

A steam drifter was seen to blow up off the Humber this afternoon.

SS SAUVITY, in Convoy F.S. 21 was mined this evening to the eastward of Hartleppool.

Ports affected by minelaying today were Swansea, Port Talbot, Sunderland, Blyth, Humber, Cardiff, Avormouth, Barry, Newport, Leith, Plymouth, Rosyth, Milford Haven and Tyne. The two latter are closed. Rosyth approach channel is closed between 2° 52' W., and East Gate Inchkeith. Liverpool was opened at 1118.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.10.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

General de Gaulle has asked that the blockade of Libreville shall be vigorously enforced, for the reason given in his 1305/27.

North Atlantic

SHEFFIELD left Gibraltar today to patrol off the Azores.

South Atlantic

In view of their liability to submarine attack, ships, too slow for convoy, which can reach the U.K. from the Cape without refuelling are not to be routed direct to U.K., but are to put into Freetown, where they will be included in a slow convoy if possible.

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. Adty. 1819/25 and 1310/26. In future M/S Trawlers are not to be employed on A/P Patrol unless ordered by C.in C. Rosyth. (C.in C. Rosyth 1129/27 to N.O.I.C. Leith).

Escort for S/M's in Convoy waters. Experience shows that submarines in Convoy are an embarrassment to the local escort in the event of U Boat attack on the convoy are in danger of being attacked by escort and convoy, having regard to present U Boat tactics.
2. It is considered submarines should pass through convoy waters with a separate escort and then proceed independently to a pre-arranged rendezvous again outside convoy waters.
3. There is no objection to the present system of submarines proceeding independently up the English Channel.
(C.in C. W.A. 1844/27 to Adty.)

Bombing of EMPRESS OF BRITAIN.

Defence of Fast Single M/V's against Air Attack. Consider that steps should be taken to minimise danger of air attack on fast single ships.
2. Available information shows that -
(a) only 5 air attacks on shipping in the N.W. Approaches and North Channel have been carried out at night. All of these were in moonlight.
(b) Long range enemy aircraft usually make the Fastnet about 40 minutes before sunrise before proceeding Northwards.
3. Propose that fast single incoming ships should make Rathlin Island at dawn and outgoing ships make it at dusk. Also that sufficient Coastal Command fighters to provide escort for at least one ship throughout each day should be stationed at Aldergrove. When these are provided it will be possible to transfer the zone through which ships pass during the night further West.
(C.in C. W.A. 1922/27 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

ARK ROYAL.	Intend sail ARK ROYAL escorted by DUNCAN, ISIS, and FEARLESS at 0700/28 for Clyde. ETA will be reported later. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1045/27 to Adty.) Adty. 2109/26. Route from Clyde to Gibraltar. (C.in C. W.A. 1710/27 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
SALOPIAN) LAURENTIC) PATROCLUS)	Movements and Routes. (F.O.C. N.P. 1048/27).
CHITRAL.	Leave Clyde 1300/29. Route to Reykjavik. Speed 13 knots. (F.O.C. N.P. 1050/27).
LINNET.	Intend LINNET bound for Clyde to join EN.13 at Scapa R/V. (A.C.O.S. 1144/27 to C.in C. W.A.).
Nore.	Movements to 1200/28. (C.in C. Nore 1200/27).
EDINBURGH	D.4 is to sail one Destroyer to R/V with EDINBURGH passing Tyne Pier Heads at 1600/29 to provide A/S Escort to Rosyth (C.in C. H.F. 1211/27 to D.4.)
BURNHAM) BROADWATER) BRADFORD) BURWELL)	Sail Ships tomorrow for Plymouth so as to pass Hartland Point at 0730/29. (C.in C. W.A. 1250/27 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Portsmouth.	Movements for Night 27/28. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1407/27).
Western Approaches.	Situation at 2000/27. (C.in C. W.A. 1427/27 and 1451/27).
Orkneys.	Trawler Line tonight. (A.C.O.S.1536/27).
KIPLING.	Route to be followed beyond Dover. (C.in C. W.A. 1722/27 to C.in C. Nore, and C.in C. Nore 2029/27 to KIPLING).

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Patrols O and T. On 27, 28, and 29/10. (C.in C. Nore 0910/27 to D.16, D. 21, AURORA).

Iceland. R.M.F.U. has completed installation of coast defence batteries (Alabaster 1243/27).

M.T.B's on Dutch and Belgian Coasts. Weather permitting, 70-foot M.T.B's to operate tonight. Any vessel sighted East of 2° 10' E. and South of 51° 45' N. may be attacked without challenge. (C.in C. Nore 0940/27 to BEEHIVE). M.T.B's 22, 31, 34 leave Harwich P.M./27 (C.in C. Nore 1200/27). My 0940. Operate from Ostend to Hook of Holland (C.in C. Nore 1909/27 to M.T.B. 22).

M.T.B's between Boulogne and Dunkirk. Intend to sail M.T.B's 70 and 5 at 2000 today to operate between Boulogne and Dunkirk AW Buoy returning Dover about 0200/28. (V.A. Dover 1231/27 to Adty.) M.T.B's will not operate to Eastward of 2° E. (V.A. Dover 1745/27 to Adty.)

PATROCLUS) LAURENTIC) My 1046/27 is cancelled. Ships to carry out a sweep from their areas on course 065° as far as 11° West, and thence return to patrol. Object, to intercept German Tanker GEDANIA known to be proceeding Northwards. Position of URSULA at 0700/27. (F.O.C. N.P. 1800/27).

North Atlantic Suspicious Vessel. Suspicious vessel following s.s. MAHOUT in 57° 46' N. 25° 44' W. (Valentia Radio 1710 and 1726/27). My position 50° 38' N. 23° 2' W. course North, speed 27 knots. Am closing MAHOUT. (Corrupt group). Shall I continue. (CORNWALL 1935 Z/27 to C.in C. W.A.) Have you anything further to report regarding suspicious vessel (C.in C. W.A. 2217/27 to MAHOUT).

8 M/V's off Cape Barfleur. VANOC, VOLUNTEER and FERNIE have been ordered to intercept 8 motor vessels 5,000 tons reported in position 49° 45' N. 1° 20' W. at 1615, course 080° speed 10 knots. Sailed at 2145. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2157/27 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

SEAWOLF. Report on Lines Fiord, Fro Havet, etc. (V.A.S. 0001/27 to Adty.)

TUNA) TALISMAN) TUNA proceed to Patrol Area. TALISMAN reports unsuccessful attack on Italian U-Boat in 45° 49' N. 1° 43' W. at 0645/22. 5 unexploded Torpedoes 183° 6 miles from that position. (Capt. S.2. 0346/27 to S/M's Area B).

UTMOST. Intend sail at 1530/28 for Gibraltar. Route. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1027/27).

Bombing Information. My 1126/2. Lorient. (V.A.S. 1614/27).

Portsmouth. Movements. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1903/27).

CACHALOT TAKU Your C944/27. If U boat movements seem unlikely between 29th and 1st November, propose CACHALOT patrol in vicinity of 45° 51'N. 04° 44'W. from daylight 29th and TAKU south east of Belle Isle from p.m. 29th. (S.2. 1943/27 to V.A.S.)

British Air Activity.

Convoy ARENA. Fighters being sent now. (Whitehall W/T 1132/27).

Boulogne. Barges to be destroyed on Night 27/28 by Aircraft of 812 Sqdn. (H.Q.C.C. 1616/27).

Protection of Convoy SL.51. In view of the attack on EMPRESS OF BRITAIN Admiralty regard it as important that Convoy S.L. 51 should be given adequate air protection during daylight on 29th October. Request you arrange with Coastal Command accordingly. (D.T.D. 1619/27 to C.in C.W.A.)

Rosyth Area. Air Escorts tomorrwo (C.in C. Rosyth 1842/27)

Finnish S.S. ESTHER THORSPN recently released from Tromso reports that when port was bombed by British aircraft October 16th vessel was nearly hit but no actual damage caused in harbour and it is though that she was mistaken for German transport. Members of the crew state during earlier raid by a single plane direct hit was scored on oil tanks and on Anti aircraft batteries on shore. (Petsamo 1520/27 to D.N.I).
Note by D.N.I. - Further details have been asked for.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Wick Aerodrome. 2 A/C dropped about 6 H.E. Bombs at 1830/26. Some damage, no casualties. Also machine-gunned main street. 2 houses demolished, 3 civilians killed, 20 injured. (A.C.O.S. 0109/27 to Adty.)

EMPRESS OF BRITAIN. Fire fierce. Hull glowing. Consider salvage only possible after some days if fire burns out. (CAIRO 0402/27 to C.in C. W.A.) No Tug arrived ship by 0530, but were passed outward off Tory Island at 1930/26. (CAIRO 0620/27 to C.in C. W.A.) ECHO and BURZA arrived Tyne with about 570 survivors (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0829/27 to Adty.) Your 1230/27. Proceed with EMPRESS OF BRITAIN towards North Channel. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1555/27 to MARAUDER, THAMES, BROKE).

Master of EMPRESS OF BRITAIN reports he was struck by five bombs and bridge and upper decks machine gunned in four attack made by a very large four engined enemy bomber, whilst 70 miles north west of Donegal Bay at 0920/26. First bomb hit the main lounge which immediately took fire and dense clouds of black smoke quickly spread throughout ship. Speed was increased to 24 knots when the aircraft was recognised as hostile and exaggerated zig-zag was ordered. The three Lewis guns hit the aircraft repeatedly and the H.A. gun aft prevented the enemy from being even more successful than he was, and, in opinion of Master, was largely instrumental in enabling such a large proportion of the passengers and crew to be saved. The complement was 643 of which approximately 580 survivors have been landed at Greenock and 10 bodies. Master is of the opinion that 10 other persons were either suffocated or killed on board by the explosions and he inspected at least a further five bodies in the sea. Further survivors should be landed at Belfast later today. When ship was last seen by Captain, the fire was spreading forward, but it did not appear as if the oil fuel has become ignited. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1709/27 to Adty.)

Request Inquiry at Glasgow into bombing and damaging of EMPRESS OF BRITAIN calling witnesses now at Glasgow. F.O.I.C. Glasgow concurs. (C.in C. W.A. 2212/27 to C.in C. Rosyth).

/ Convoy O.B. 234. .....

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940
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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Continued)

Convoy O.B. 234. — Convoy ONSET being attacked by Aircraft in 55° 56' N. 12° 10' W. (Portland W/T 0954/27). 2 Blenheims sent (C.in C. W.A. 1030/27 to CAIRO)

S.S. ALFRED JONES hit — S.S. ALFRED JONES hit. (C.in C. W.A. 0055/28).

Chatham. — At 1945/26 one Bomb fell in No. 1 Basin. Assume no damage. (Supt. C.E. Chatham 1101/27 to Civil Lord).

Mining.

Swansea, Port Talbot — Closed. Suspected Minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0017/28). My 1711/26. Swansea and Port Talbot all now open. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0953/27).

Sunderland. — Closed. Suspected Minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 0045/27). Port open. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 1445/27).

Blyth. — Closed till completion of sweeping about 1430. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0300/27). Blyth open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1405/27).

Humber. — Closed. A/C mining. (F.O. Humber 0443/27) Humber open. (F.O. Humber 0941/27).

Cardiff, Avonmouth, Barry, Newport — Closed, owing to Mines. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0924/27). Ports now open. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1554/27).

Leith. — Closed. Suspected Minelaying. (C.in C. Rosyth 0937/27). Port open, and is to be approached as in my 1301/26. (C.in C. Rosyth 1235/27).

Plymouth. — Cancel 2204/26. Port open. (C.in C. W.A. 1054/27). Plymouth closed owing to Minelaying. (C.in C. W.A. 2040/27).

Liverpool. — Cancel my 1725/26. Port now open. Anchorage prohibited in area given in my 0950/25. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1118/27). Following area considered clear. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1400/27).

S.N. 10 A. — Cancel my 1225/22. (R.A.M.L. 1227/27 to Adty.)

East Coast. — QZS. 40 unsafe owing to Mines between 3' E. of Sheringham Buoy to about 563 Buoy. (FRANKLIN 1235/27 to Adty.)

Yarmouth. — Your 1206/20. Trials begin to-night. Search begins from No.5 Buoy at 2330/27 and W. side of QZS. 30 will be searched.

/ E. side of ...

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued).

Yarmouth (contd.)

E. side of QZS. 30 on Trawlers return North, anchoring off Lowestoft during day. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1455/27 to C.in C. Nore). My 1550. COBBERS reports having sunk another Mine of same type near 60 Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1715/27 to C.in C. Nore) Particulars of Mine and Aircraft. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1550/27 to C.in C. Nore).

Rosyth.

My 1521/26. Both sides of Channel may now be used. (C.in C. Rosyth 1301/27). Approach channel between 2° 52' W. and East Gate Inchkeith is closed owing to suspected Minelaying. (C.in C. Rosyth 2301/27 to Adty.) Methil is open. (C.in C. Rosyth 2335/27 to Adty.)

Humber.

H.M. Tug DILIGENT reports Steam Drifter seen to blow up about 53° 33' N. 0° 15' E. One man picked up, died, and body landed Methil. Drifter not identified. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1631/27 to F.O.I.C. Humber)

PERSEVERE.

Small M.B., tender to X.D.O. Inchkeith, mined and sunk at 1450/27 in 50 to 100 yards 074° East Gunnet Ledge Buoy. Crew of two saved. Area had been swept for North polarity by Baby LL. (C.in C. Rosyth 1747/27 to Adty.)

Harwich.

One Mine exploded in 52° 5' N. 1° 49' E. Fleet Sweepers began clearance of 148 QZS near 54A. Buoy. Curtailed by anti-sweeping devices. Clearance continues tomorrow (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1928/27 to Adty.) Request Air Cover 0630 to 1730. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2118/27 to C.in C. Nore).

SUAVITY.

British, 634 tons. Mined in 54° 44' N. 1° 5' W. Afloat, but engine-room disabled. STEFNEY standing by. Request Tug. (WOOLSTON 2112/27 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Milford Haven.

Closed. Suspected Magnetic Minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2144/27).

Tyne.

Closed, owing to suspected Minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2306/27).

MARGARETHA.

(Dutch 325 tons) mined in 51° 21' 51" N. 3° 12' 18" W. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1200/27).

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HOME COMMANDS.

ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

Shipping Routine and Situation at Oslo.	(N.A. Stockholm 1244/26 to D.N.I.)
Enemy Unit.	Probably small Surface Vessel at 1529. B.S.T. in 58° 17' N. 3° 5' E. D/F report. (D.D.I.C. 1632/27 to C.in C. H.F.)
8 M/V's.	8 camouflaged M/V's 5000 tons in 49° 45' N. 1° 20' W. steering 080° at 10 knots at 1615. (SWORDFISH 1800/27 to C.in C. Portsmouth).
Enemy Light Forces.	D/F indications at 2048 B.S.T. that German Light Forces are operating between Cherbourg and Isle of Wight. (D.D.I.C. 2222/27 to C.in C. Portsmouth). (C.in C. Portsmouth 2246/27 to VANOC, VOLUNTEER, FERNIE, KIPLING, and C.C. W.A. 2355/27 to KELVIN, JACKAL).

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

BURWELL. Your 1250/27. Owing to defects in steering-engine steam pipe cannot be sailed tomorrow. Estimated time for repairs 6 days. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2250/27 to C.in C. W.A.).

ARETHUSA. Have had minor collision with unknown merchant ship in convoy H N 12 in position 058° 03' N. 002° 12' W. at 0323. Merchant ship appeared undamaged. Have slight damage to stem. C.in C. H.F. C. in C. Rosyth and C S 2 have been informed. (ARETHUSA 1645/27 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

27/10/40.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.	Situation at 2000/27. (C.in C. W.A. 1427/27).
W.N.26.	LEDA, KELLETT and ALBURY to sweep ahead during passage from Duncanby Head to Methil. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1001/27).
H.X.81.	To alter course to avoid U-boat. (C.in C. W.A., 1121/27, to VOLTAIRE). VOLTAIRE to leave and return to base. (C.in C. W.A. 1245/27). Your 1245/27. Noon position H.X. 81. Commodore, Vice-Commodore, and 25 other ships in company. (VOLTAIRE, 1434 Z/27). Intend to R.V. H.X. 81 at 1600/28. Position. (WALKER, 1747/27). Position of H.X. 81 at 1200/27. (C.in C. W.A., 2237/27).
S.C.8.	STURDY and SHIKARI to meet. Route. (C.in C. W.A. 1145/27) SCIMITAR to join. (SCIMITAR 1015/27).
O.L.10.	SALOPIAN to leave Clyde (date) with O.L.10. (F.O.C.N.P. 1048/27).
E.N.13.	LINNET for Clyde to join at Scapa R.V. (A.C.O.S., 1144/27).
S.L.51.	20 hours late at R.V. ALCANTARA proceeding to contact. Position. (ALCANTARA 0805/27).
	In view of attack on EMPRESS OF BRITAIN, Admty. regard it important S.L.51 should be given adeuate air protection during daylight 29/10. (D.T.D. to C.in C. W.A. 1619/27). Meet SL.51, 61 ships, ALCANTARA, 0815/29. (C.in C. W.A. to ARROW, ROCHESTER, AMAZON, PRIMROSE, HEARTSEASE, GERANIUM, 1603/27).
F.N. 21.	S.O. of escort, LONDONDERRY ordered not to pass No. 5 Buoy until 2130. (C.in C. Nore, 1630/27. 1816/27) Norwegian destroyer DRAUG to join. (N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1601/27).
F.S. 20.	Escort WESTMINSTER, ELGIN, SALTASH (C.in C. Nore 1630/27).
O.B. 235.	VETERAN vice WIVERN as escort (C.in C. W.A., 1827/27) CAMELIA and HONEYSUCKLE to join. (C.in C. W.A. 1845/27).
H.G. 45.	Arrived escorted by MALLOW, HAVELOCK, HESPERUS. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1309/27).

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Libreville Patrol. — No objection now to occasional sighting from shore of Cruisers on patrol but times and places of closing coast should be varied widely. Seaward reconnaissance will be done more openly. French Sloop BOUGAINVILLE and CAP DES PALMES only in Libreville 26/10. (F.O.C. 1 C.S. 1853A/27 to DELHI).

DELHI DEVONSHIRE. — My 1718/26. Intend relief of DELHI and temporary transfer of flag now to take place, 29/10. (F.O.C. 1 C.S.,2235/27).

Libreville Blockade. — Tel. W.28, 27/10. (Gen. de Gaulle to Admty., 2305/27) (See Operations Vol.)

North Atlantic.

PASTEUR. — Re passage of Mr. J.H. McMillan of Dept.S.O.E. to Gibraltar, and onward to Malta in one of H.M. Ships. (D.O.D. (F) 0001/27 to F.O.C.N.A.

Azores Patrol, SHEFFIELD — SHEFFIELD to sail forthwith to carry out Azores Patrol with same instructions as in A.T.1915/9 and 1927/9. (D.O.D.(F) to F.O. Force H., 1615/27)

Suspicious Vessel. — Your 0454/27 request for verification of 1009/23 following is repetition asked for:- S.O. (I) Gibraltar repeated D.N.I. from N.A. Madrid. Valencia reports with date 15/10 most nights lately large steamer showing all lights has remained stationary off Cape San Antonio from 24 to 0300 hours. (N.A. Madrid, 1330/27).

HOTSPUR. — Your 1319/25. HOTSPUR will be able to steam at least 17 knots, probably more. (F.O.C. N.A to C.in C. Med., 1314/27).

Military Camp. — Pointing out 1,400 men due to be accommodated for one week will be in tented camps without bomb-proof shelters. Risk of casualties if French reprisal bombing incurred. (Govr. Gib., to W.O., 1500/27).

Raider Report. — At 0059Z/22 in position 012° 57' N. 018° 37' W. INGLEFIELD intercepted raider's distress signals QQ QQ on a frequency slightly above 500 kc/s. No position or ships' name received nor was station heard to answer. Conditions for reception good but signals too weak for D/F bearing to be taken. (Capt. D.3., 0701/27 to F.O.C. N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Slow Convoys — In view of their liability to submarine attack, ships, too slow for convoy, which can reach U.K. without refuelling are not to be routed to U.K. direct in future. They are to be routed to Freetown for instructions and will be included in a slow convoy if possible. (C.in C. S.A. 1004/27).

W.S.3. WOOLWICH. — Asking whether whole convoy should be routed to Aden or Suez. CLAN CAMERON has engine defects, imperative to remain Capetown until a.m. 1/11. WOOLWICH reports essential remain 4 days for boiler defects, therefore intend ships shall complete boiler cleaning which will take 6 days. Anticipate remainder of convoy will sail a.m.29/10. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1103Z/27).
Replying to C.in C. E.I. 1202Z/26.
O.C. Military Mission 106 is in ORONTES, Convoy W.S.3 Fast. (C.in C. S.A. 1301/27).

KENYA STRATHAIRD — My 1703/24 and 1209/25. KENYA sailed from Freetown 1200/27 escorting STRATHAIRD and ORCADES. (C.in C. S.A. to Admty. 1335N/27) In event of STRATHAIRD being unable to keep up, to proceed independently 30 miles to westward of route given, etc. (C.in C. S.A. to KENYA, 1409N/27).

PRETORIA CASTLE — Admty. 2006/26. PRETORIA CASTLE can be made available but this will mean taking her away from patrol in areas ordered in my 1005 N/25. (C.in C. S.A. to Admty. 1933/27).

Mediterranean.

Operation B.S. TETRARCH TRITON — TETRARCH and TRITON to leave Malta p.m./27 and 28/10 respectively. Orders for patrol, and date of recall. (Capt. S.1, 1255/27) (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1817/27).

Convoy Escorts. — S.N.O. Red Sea 0724/25 and my 1901/23. Confirmed no destroyers will be available. (C.in C. Med.,1237/27).

U/B Zones, PARTHIAN. — Information received that U-Boats from Aegean have been ordered to occupy number of zones from 28/10 to 5/11 one being area 032° 49' 027° 15' - 000° - 60 - 66.
PARTHIAN proceed through 032° 34', 026° 54', 031° 44', 029° 10'. (Capt. S.1, 1731/27).
Attention of 3rd C.S. drawn to movement of PARTHIAN. (C.in C. Med., 2015/27).

/ Suez Canal Bombed. .....

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Continued)

Suez Canal Bombed.

One enemy aircraft flew over Canal area, 0145 to 0240/27 dropping about 10 bombs in desert near Bitter Lake, east of Lake Timsah and west of Port Said. No damage or casualties. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal, 1939/27).

Tobruk, Air attack. 24/10.

On 24/10, 14 aircraft from ILLUSTRIOUS and EAGLE attacked Tobruk, starting from Martin Bagush aerodrome. 4 carried out high level bombing to distract attention from remainder who laid "cucumbers" in harbour entrance. Operation entirely successful. (C.in C. Med., 1321/27).

Malta Raids.

By 8 Italian aircraft between 0855 and 0920/27. Fighters intercepted and 2 enemy aircraft probably damaged. At 1000 enemy aircraft against approached to within 30 miles of the Island, circled and returned, probably searching for one of their aircraft which had made a forced landing.

3rd C.S.

Mediterranean 00251. 3rd C.S. leaves Alexandria 0500/28 passing south and west of area defined in C.in C. Mediterranean's 0940/27 and through positions 034° 03' N. 025° 30' East at 1830/28.
F.O. 3 C.S., 2228/27 to DECOY).

Mediterranean 00251/1 para. 29. 3rd C.S. will pass through following positions on 29/10 (details), thence direct to Alexandria. Join me as convenient after daylight. If operation is cancelled request you inform me as soon as practicable.
(C.S.3. 2235/27 to DECOY).

Disposition.

Movements Summary number 164. All times Z. - 2. REGULUS leaves Gulf of Sidra P.M./28. OSIRIS leaves Benghazi P.M./29. PANDORA Straits of Otranto P.M./30.
French submarines NARVAL between Lampedusa and Kerkenah Island. TETRARCH leaves Malta P.M./27, Gulf of Sidra, P.M./30. TRITON leaves Malta p.m./28 for Straits of Taranto, will not proceed eastwards of line 180° from Santa Maria de Leuca Light before 0001/1.
PARTHIAN left Gulf of Taranto P.M./25 due Alexandria daylight 31/10. PROTEUS east-bound expected to pass through position 032° 40' N. 025° 00'E. about daylight 29/10 due Alexandria daylight 31/10.
ORION, SYDNEY, JERVIS, JUNO, CALCUTTA, HAVOCK, HERO, expected to pass through Doro Channel southwards 001/28 proceeding through Kaso Straits to arrive Alexandria P.M./28.

MALAYA .....

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Continued)

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MALAYA .....

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

MALAYA, EAGLE, COVENTRY and 6 destroyers leave position South East of Crete P.M./27 due Alexandria P.M./28.

GLOUCESTER, YORK leave Alexandria 0500/28 North-westward (route) to 032° 59' N, 026° 44' E. 1200/29 thence to Alexandria direct.

DEFENDER and convoy leave Port Said A.M./28 due Alexandria A.M. 29.
HUNTLEY and DERBY expected to leave Port Said 28th due Alexandria 29th.
ILEX and convoy leave Famagusta 28th due Haifa A.M./29 Port Said 30th, Alexandria 31st. (C.in C. Med., 2021/27).

East Indies.

Whale Catchers. — Admty. 2054/25. A.N.1 allotted Kenya Dhow Patrol. Disposal of A.N.4 and A.N.5 will be signalled. Asking when ready to sail, etc. (C.in C. E.I., to S.N.O. Simonstown, 0704/27).

Bahrein Defence. — Extracts from telegram from Political Resident, re defence requirements at Bahrein. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 0954 Z/27).

W.S.4A. — Admty. 2006/26. An A.M.C. can be made available to escort W.S.4A from vicinity of Durban to Aden. (C.in C. E.I. 1138Z/27)

Raider Report. — Mombasa Radio reports hearing RRRR at 1238 G.M.T./27. No call sign or message. Reliability not assessed. Report if you heard anything. (C.in C. E.I. to CERES, 1458 Z/27). Your 1458 Z. Nothing heard of original signal. (CERES, 1618/27)
My 1458 and CERES 1618. Nothing heard at Mauritius or Seychelles. (C.in C. E.I. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1724 Z/27) See 29/10.

Convoy B.N.7. — Arrived Suez. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1648/27).

FRANCESCO NULLO.

Second destroyer bombed. — My 0800/24th KIMBERLEY reports nothing of Italian Destroyer FRANCESCO NULLO left visible above water after latter blew up at about 0415 Z/21 in position 016° 28.8'N. 040°. 13.4' E. R.A.F. claim to have hit with bombs some hours later on 21st enemy destroyer one mile east of Harmil Island. Vessel appeared to have steam up but was not under way. Bomb hit stern and white and black smoke rose from stern to height of 200 to 300 feet. Air photographs taken shortly before release of hitting bomb show destroyer afloat in deep water.

/ Air .....

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

FRANCESCO NULLO

Second destroyer bombed.

Air reconnaissance 23 October reveals no destroyer in bombed position but large patch of oil and nothing else in FRANCESCO NULLO's position. Conclusion. FRANCESCO NULLO definitely sunk and completely submerged. Definite damage to another destroyer which may have sunk in deep water or been removed. (C.in C. E.I., 1500Z/27)

China.

MINGSANG

Boarded by Japanese.

Details of boarding by Japanese destroyer of British MINGSANG at 1820/25 in 27.52 N., 121.15 E. Am making strong protest. (N.L.O., Shanghai, 0937 Z/27).

Shipping.

26/10, arrival, SADO MARU YAWATA MARU; departures, CANTON Saigon; CALIFORNIA STANDARD, Bahrein; MOGAMIGAWA MARU, Japan. (N.C.S.O., Shanghai, 0322Z/27).

Indo-China.

Following from Schompre and for De Gaulle. Situation in Indo China becoming more tense. Am trying contact Martin immediately. If you agree would try and contact Cosme now in Chungking to whom I could appeal and ask him to explain exact situation. (C.in C. China, 0239Z/27).

Appreciation.

Your 0759/22.
Far Eastern appreication of which summary was telegraphed dealt with the main Far Eastern problem in absence of a Fleet. Question of minimum reinforcements short of sending a Fleet was dealt with in a later paper C.O.S. (40) 605, a copy of which is on the way to you. In this paper it is concluded that [redacted] reinforcement [redacted] would be [redacted] for trade protection in the Indian Ocean. Prime Minister's covering message was based on this appreciation which is present intended policy. (1 S.L. 1225/27, to C.in C. China).

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

French Ships

Details from N.A., Washington of 4 ships (WINNIPEG, etc.) due to sail from New Orleans for U.K. with approval Admty. Request to inform ships at sea. (C.in C. A.W.I. to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, etc. 1052/27, amplified 0248/28).

Australia.

U.S.6.

Left Fremantle 2200 Z/26 for Bombay. PERTH escorting to 12.30 E., (?S) 96.00 E., where she will be relieved by CANBERRA. (Navy Office, Melbourne, 0716 Z/27). Details and route. (D.N.O. W. Australia, 0115 Z/27).

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

GEDANIA. — CAMITO to proceed to 2700 50 miles from Cape Roca, thence return to patrol, object interception of GEDANIA known to be proceeding northwards. (F.O.C.N.P., 1046/27).
Expected time of arrival St. Nazaire from Las Palmas on 30-31/10. (V.A.S., to S/M's on Patrol, Area "B", 0944/27).
May be approaching Bay of Biscap from westward (F.O.C. N.P. 1540/27).

LAHN)
ANATOLIA)
NIENBURG) — New York Maritime Register reports sale to New Texel Company, Argentine, of ? Freetown on condition ships remain idle throughout war. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1541/27).

MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

GEDANIA.

CAMITO to proceed to 270° 50 miles from Cape Roca, thence return to patrol, object interception of GEDANIA known to be proceeding northwards. (F.O.C.N.P., 1046/27).
Expected time of arrival St. Nazaire from Las Palmas on 30-31/10. (V.A.S., to S/M's on Patrol, Area "B", 0944/27).
May be approaching Bay of Biscap from westward (F.O.C. N.P. 1540/27).

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MOST SECRET.

27.10.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ST. MALO. British, 5779 tons. In Convoy H.X. 77. Understood from survivors torpedoed and sunk on 18/10. (D.O.R. 27/10).

Submarines Reported.

1200. 54.10 N., 10.50 W. (C.in C. W.A.1422/27)

0938. 57.30 N., 5.10 E., probably U/B going home in Kattegat, may be damaged. (D.S.418)

1447. 56° to 57° N., 16° to 18° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 419).

1105. 53.53 N., 11.26 W., conning tower seen by aircraft. (D.S. 419).

2307. S.W. of Lands End, very indefinite. (D.S. 419).

Submarines Attacked.

By TALISMAN 22/10. At 0645/22 in position 045° 49' 001° 43' W. unsuccessfully attacked with torpedoes and guns one Italian U-Boat course 120°. No other shipping seen entering or leaving Gironde. Frequent A/S patrol by armed trawlers but no asdic transmission heard. Very infrequent A/S air patrol. Only slight intensification of A/S operations since 22/10. 5 unexploded torpedoes 183° 6 miles from above position. (TALISMAN, 0241/27).

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MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

General.

Greece and Italy at war.

At 0300 today Italy delivered an ultimatum demanding Greek consent to the occupation of certain strategic points by 0600 today. This was refused and the Italian Minister was informed that this was considered a declaration of war. The help of Great Britain has been asked by sea to defend Corfu, by air to defend Athens and by financial assistance.
A state of war exists between Greece and Italy. At the request of the Greek Government the necessary instructions have been broadcast to Greek shipping, for avoiding enemy ports.

Home Commands.

Sweep for raider.

1st B.C.S. (HOOD, REPULSE) with FURIOUS, 3 cruisers and 8 destroyers proceeded to sea from Scapa today to search for a possible enemy raider reported by MAHOUT in 57° 46' N. 25° 44' W. at 1826/27, steering E.N.E. CORNWALL, on passage to U.K. was diverted to search. AUSTRALIA left the Clyde to search.

M.T.B. patrol.

M.T.B's last night operated on the Dutch and Belgian coasts. Some enemy craft met, believed to be aircraft rescue boats, took avoiding action.

UTMOST

UTMOST sailed today to join the Mediterranean Fleet. She is to carry out a patrol to the westward of Lorient on the way.

H.49 overdue

S/M H.49 is overdue at Harwich and has not replied to a signal ordering her to report her position yesterday.

Harwich S/M base discontinued.

The use of Harwich as a submarine base is to be discontinued for the time being as Zone H is no longer tenable by S/M's owing to the probable existence of enemy mines and the remainder of the area off the Dutch coast is either fouled by our own mines or is too shallow.

British Air Activity.

Lorient, Channel ports (by single aircraft) and docks at Wilhelmshaven and Hamburg were attacked last night.
The power station at Lorient was attacked again early this morning.
4 direct hits were seen.

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

EMPRESS OF BRITAIN (bombed 26/10) exploded and sank at 0205 today.
The German wireless broadcast claims that she was torpedoed by a U-boat; however, BROKE (S.O. of escort) reports that no A/S contact was obtained.
Damage was caused at Liverpool docks last night. There ~~was~~ no casualties or damage to H.M. Ships.
H.M. Drifter HARVEST GLEANER was bombed and sunk off Southwold today.
An enemy aircraft reconnoitred Iceland today.

Mining.

Operation B.3.43.

S.O. 20th D.F. reports Operation B.S.43 completed last night (mining in East Coast Barrier by TEVIOTBANK and PLOVER, escorted by INTREPID and ICARUS).
3 Hampdens laid mines off Lorient last night.

Enemy Minelaying aircraft last night operated off Thames Estuary, East and north east coasts and off east Scotland.

S.S. SUAVITY (mined yesterday) has sunk.

A mine exploded today under the stern of WALPOLE in the Thames Approaches, but ship was not holed, although damaged, WINDSOR towed her to Sheerness.
SHEAF FIELD in Convoy F.S. 20 was mined today in approximately the same position as WALPOLE, and was beached.
M.V. SAGACITY (490 tons) was damaged by a mine off Spurn Point this afternoon.
S.S. WYTHYBURN (420 tons) and DEVONIA (622 tons) were mined and sunk in the Bristol Channel this afternoon.
Ports affected today were Fishguard, Barry and Plymouth. The Tyne, Milford Haven and Rosyth were reopened.

Mediterranean.

R.A.F. attacked Benghazi and Derna last night. Damage was not observed.

Operation MAQ2

C.in C. Med. reports this operation completed (covering the passage of Convoy AN 5 from Port Said and Alexandria to Dardanelles, and air attack on Maltezana (see 27/10)).

KENT

left Suez today for U.K. for repairs.

/ Greek-Italian hostilities. .....

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Greek-Italian hostilities.

Tatoi aerodrome, Patras, Corinth Canal (twice) and Preveza were bombed today. No damage was done to the Corinth Canal and insignificant damage elsewhere.

America and West Indies.

HAMILTON (Town class destroyer) was damaged by grounding while undocking at St. John's, New Brunswick 25/10.

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Greece and Italy at War.

Informed by F.O. tel. from Athens that Italian have demanded by 0600 today 28th the occupation of certain unspecified stragetic points in Greece.
Greek President of the Council having refused these demands war appears inevitable. Greeks have asked for our assistance by sea to defend Corfu by air to defend Athens and by financial assistance. (1st S.L. 0544/28).

Policy.

Administration of destroyers by R.A.D.

Proposing R.A.D. should administer the destroyers in N.W. Approaches rather than at Scapa Flow in view of the large concentration of destroyers in N.W. Approaches (A.C.N.S.(H) 1204/28 to C.in C. H.F., C.in C. W.A.). Little advantage. Would complicate existing organisation (C.in C. W.A. 2057/28).
No objection but I must keep MAIDSTONE until HECLA is ready (C.in C. H.F. 2233/28)

Defence of U.K.

Deluge
Arbroath
Gail

At 0200/28 (D.C. 0220/28) At 1400/28 (D.C. 1427/28) Re A.A. defences. Request Air Min. be pressed to supply guns heavier than .303 at once. (R.A.N.A.S. 1114/28).

Movements.

Nore Command.

Night dispositions 28/29 Oct. (C.in C. Nore 0800/28) Movements to 1200/29 (C.in C. Nore 1200/28).

ARK ROYAL.

Cancel my 1045/27. ARK ROYAL delayed by fog. Intend to sail at 1030/29. ETA Clyde boom 2015/29. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1030/28)

C.in C. W.A. 1710/27 F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1030/28. Anticipated ARK ROYAL should be ready to sail about 1300/30. PASTEUR and GLASGOW should R.V. with ARK ROYAL in (position) it is requested fighter protection and air escort may be arranged accordingly. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1645/28). GLASGOW is to proceed at 1530/29 to R.V. with ARK ROYAL in (position) at 1730/30. Request air escort may be arranged during daylight 30/10 (C.in C. H.F. 2155/28).

/ WORCESTERSHIRE .....

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued)

WORCESTERSHIRE.	Leave Clyde p.m./31 for N.P.(area) (F.O.C. N.P. 1120/28).
COMORIN.	Asking for routeing instructions for her (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1237/28)
EDINBURGH.	Passes Tyne Pier Head 1445/29 (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1258/28).
Dover.	Patrols for night 28/29 Oct. (V.A. Dover 1339/28).
ARGUS.	To facilitate berthing programme not less than 24 hours notice will be given of date for ARGUS to load aircraft. This is unlikely to be before 7/11 (A.C.N.S.(F) 1347/28 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)
Orkneys.	Movements tonight (A.C.O.S. 1531/28).
Rosyth	Movements tonight (C.in C. Rosyth 1830/28).
MACKAY JERSEY	To proceed to Dartmouth arrival 0730/29. Plymouth closed due to suspected minelaying. (C.in C. W.A. 2021/28) To arrive 0930/29. Instructions for entering (C.in C. W.A. 2331/28)
BERWICK	Will proceed to Tail of Bank 30/10. Reason for delay. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2244/28).
KELVIN.	On completion of night patrol return to Plymouth so as to arrive 0930/29. Instructions for entering (C.in C. W.A. 2335/28).
Destroyers, Western Approaches.	My 1633/17. Destroyers are allocated as follows:- Group 5 WIVERN WALKER VANSITTART WESTCOTT CALDWELL Group 6 VETERAN WITHERINGTON VERITY CHELSEA Group 7 WANDERER WARWICK WILD SWAN CLARE Group 8 CASTLETON WHITEHALL VISCOUNT WINCHELSEA VANQUISHER Group 9 HIGHLANDER HAVELOCK HESPERUS HURRICANE HARVESTER Corvettes will be allocated as they become available. (Capt. D. Liverpool 1835/28).

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Iceland. W/T. communication) Your 0.305 cipher 5/10. No objection your approaching Icelandic Government on lines suggested. (War Office 0045/28 to Alabaster, Reykjavik).

Suspicious Vessel. Cancel my 0044/28. MAHOUT reports suspicious vessel answering description of KONIGSBERG displaying Flag signal heave to heading East. On sighting us vessel immediately turned and followed up at full speed last seen heading East North East. Investigate. (C.in C. W.A. 0500/28 to CORNWALL and 0722/28 to Ships).

Were you the vessel referred to (C.in C. W.A. 0507/28 to VOLTAIRE) No. My position at 0600 G.M.T. 57° 30' N. 29° 3'W. (VOLTAIRE 0605 Z/28 to C.in C. W.A.)
Your 0500. My position 53° 20' N. 20°42'W. course 340° speed 27 knots. ETA in area 1700 Z/28. (CORNWALL 0601 Z/28 to C.in C. W.A.).
Was Ship you sighted Warship or Merchant Ship (C.in C. W.A.0953/28 to MAHOUT)
MAHOUT reports vessel sighted was Merchant Ship. (C.in C. W.A. 2011/28 to Ships).
It is possible that an enemy raider was in position 57° 46' N. 25° 44' W. at 1826/27 steering E.N.E. Ship reported as resembling KONIGSBERG but uncertain whether cruiser or merchant ship.
B.C. One is to proceed with available forces at Scapa on latter assumption so as to be in position 63° 008 N. 06° 00' W. at 0300/29 and carry out a sweep to Westwards.
AUSTRALIA to proceed with despatch to position 57° 00' N. 09° 30' W. and then to northward along the meridian of 9° 30' West. (C.in C. H.F. 1147/28 to AUSTRALIA, B.C.1.)
(F.O.C.N.P. 1532/28 to CALIFORNIA, LETITIA, CHITRAL) AUSTRALIA sailed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1624/28 to Adty.)
My 1532/28. Ship sighted was Merchant Ship (F.O.C.N.P. 2145/28 to CALIFORNIA, LETITIA, CHITRAL)
My 1147/28. Suspected Raider in Merchant Ship. AUSTRALIA on reaching 60° N. is to steer towards 57° 30' N. 26° W. If nothing sighted by dark 29th, all Forces to return to their bases. (C.in C. H.F. 2147/28 to B.C.1. and AUSTRALIA) (V.A.S.2339/28 to CLYDE).

M.T.B's off Belgian Coast. Your 1909/27. Route was Ostend to Zeebrugge to 51° 42' N. 3° 24' E. on silent engines. No Ships seen. (V.4. 0914/28 to C.in C. Nore) (C.in C. Nore 001/29 to Adty.)

Patrol T. My 0710/27. Cancel Patrol T by AURORA and 21st D.F. (C.in C. Nore 1045/28 to AURORA)

/ Operation LUCID .....

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued).

Operation LUCID. My 1955/18. Zero Hour 2300/1st November. Amendment of Orders and new Appendices 4 and 5 are being forwarded. (A.C.N.S. H. 1202/28 to C.in C. Nore).
Para 11. In view of shortage of M.T.B's in Nore Command, request you say how many M.T.B.'s with silent engines can come to Sheerness in accordance with para. 1 b and take part in operation. (C.in C. Nore 2140/28 to V.A. Dover).
All available 60-foot and 70-foot M.T.B's will be required to come to Sheerness on 31/10 for an operation. Report how many can be made available. (C.in C. Nore 2142/28 to BEEHIVE).

M.T.B's in Straits of Dover. My 1231/27. M.T.B's report they were challenged several times by craft believed to be A/C Rescue Boats near Varne and Colbart Shoals. But no Ships sighted. (V.A. Dover 1320/28 to Adty.)

JACKAL)
KELVIN) Patrol between Eddystone and 3° W. keeping 20 miles from coast. Return to Plymouth by 0900/29. (C.in C. W.A. 1845/28 to JACKAL).

Submarines.

THUNDERBOLT. Escorted by CUTTY SARK leaves Liverpool 1730/27 for Clyde. (V.A.S. 0211/28).

H.49 presumed lost. H.49 was ordered on 25/10 to leave zone H one P.M./26 and return to Harwich where she was due noon yesterday Sunday. She was ordered to report her position yesterday but no reply has been received. If nothing more is heard of her by 1800/28 regretted that she must be considered lost. There is no evidence as to the cause of her loss other than that a German broadcast at 1900/17 stated that a British submarine had been sunk in the Channel by German aircraft aided by trawlers and that wreckage was observed. H 49 however, only left Harwich at 1356/17 and it is unlikely this broadcast could have referred to her. (V.A.S. 1048/28 to Adty.)

/Proposed discontinuance of...

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines (Continued)

Proposed discontinuance of Harwich as S/M Base. UNIQUE USK H.28.	My 1048. Considered Zone H no longer tenable by submarines owing to probable existence of enemy mines. Remainder of area off Dutch Coast is either fouled by our own mines or is too shallow. Areas further to seaward off Dutch Coast are unlikely to be productive. It is therefore intended to discontinue use of Harwich as a submarine base for the time being. Propose UNIQUE and USK when available proceed to join 6th S/M Flotilla at Blyth and H.28 proceeds to join 7th S/M Flotilla at Rothesay. (V.A.S. 1049/28 to Adty.)
H.44.	Will be included in slow Convoy F.S.23, escort WATCHMAN and VERDUN, leaving Methil 0030/30 for Sheerness. (C.in C. Rosyth 1547/28 to Adty.)
Positions.	For following 24 hours at 0700/29. (V.A.S. 1656 and 1858/28).
UTMOST.	My 1027/27. Sailed (C.in C. Portsmouth 1807/28) Passed St. Catherine's at 1845 steering 225° at about 8 knots. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2049/28 to MACKAY, JERSEY).
TAKU) TUNA)	Instructions for Gironde patrol. (Capt. S.2. 1902/28 to S/M's Area B).
TALISMAN.	JAKCAL to meet at 0730/29 in 315° Longships Light 5 miles and escort to Milford Haven. (C.in C. W.A. 2013/28 to JACKAL).

British Air Activity.

Fighter Escort Zone for M/V's	C.in C. W.A. 1922/27. Propose to shift dawn to dusk position from Rathlin Island to 10° W. Suggested speed of Ships accordingly. (A.O. C.in C. C.C. 1315/28 to Adty.) Agree. Request routes regulated as that ships may pass 10° W. at a given latitude and time. (C.in C. W.A. 2031/28 to Adty.)
Hook to Borkum Rover Patrol.	A/C of 22 Squadron to carry out for Torpedo Attack on Shipping. A/C to be divided between dusk Patrol 28/10 and dawn Patrol 29/10. (H.Q.C.C. 1425/28 to 16 Group N. Coates).
Off Terschelling.	At 1655 in 53° 22'N. 5° 2'E. A/C attacked with torpedoes one 2000 ton M/V, and one 3000 ton M/V. Both missed. (Air Ministry 1947/28 to HQCC)

Off Borkum. .....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Continued)

Off Borkum. — At 1705 in 53° 47' N. 6° 12' E. A/C attacked with torpedo two of 3 Tankers. Both missed. (Air Ministry 2010 and 2027/28).

BLACK WATCH sunk. — S.S. THE BLACK WATCH (? BLACK WATCH, Norw. 5036 tons) is reported to have been sunk by British air attack during 3rd week in September, whilst transporting German troops along the Norwegian coast (Air Min. D.S. 466).

Enemy Air Activity.

EMPRESS OF BRITAIN (Bombed 26/10) — Exploded and sank at 0205/28. Returning (?) Campbeltown. ETA. 1300/28. (MARAUDER 0500/28 to C.in C. W.A.).
Request you comply with C.in C. W.A. 2212/27. (Cin C. Rosyth 0745/28 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

"EMPRESS OF BRITAIN" sank 0200 in position 55° 16', 9° 50'. Explosion near bridge observed 10 minutes before. No evidence of cause of explosion and no good contact obtained. Am not in touch with MARAUDER, THAMES. Am remaining in vicinity. (BROKE 1025/28 to C.in C. W.A.).
Board of Inquiry to be held at 1000/29. Members and particulars. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1542/28 to SUSSEX)

BROKE 2 miles on after quarter observed nothing SARDONYX 6 cables on Port Quarter saw 2 flashes beneath bridge. EMPRESS OF BRITAIN listed Port at once. Ship was glowing inside and smoke was still coming thickly from the bridge and after well-deck at dusk. Destroyers were sweeping from 70 degs. on the bow to astern at 12 knots. E.T.A. Foyle 2359. (BROKE 1912/28 to C.in C. W.A.)

A/C reports signal from BROKE off Tory Island intend to abandon search arrive Lough Foyle daylight Tuesday. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1946/28 to C.in C. W.A.).

Liverpool. — Damage by Bombs during Night 27/28 as follows. No Naval casualties or damage. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1245/28)

/ HARVEST GLEANER .....

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Continued)

HARVEST GLEANER. Drifter. Bombed and sunk one mile off Southwold. 3 dead, one seriously injured landed at Southwold. Rest of crew believed safe. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1510/28 to Adty.) Bombed at 1250, sank at 1338, in 048° 5/8 mile from Southwold Pier Light. 4 killed. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1741/28).

Small Shells from A/C. Report from Yarmouth coastguards indicates that enemy are dropping small explosive shells measuring 6 inches by 3 inches in the nature of Mills bombs filled with buckshot. These may reach the earth in small containers with six or ten of them inside. If touched they are likely to explode and six men were killed this morning Monday. (C.in C. Nore 1831/28 to Adty.)

Newhaven. Bombed at 1705 with about 20 H.E. Considerable damage, including Fort. Very few casualties, none Service. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1915/28 to Adty.)

Mining.

Fishguard. Closed owing to suspected mining (F.O.I.C Milford Haven 0023/28) Port is open (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1147/28).

Drifter blown up off Humber 27/10. Your 1631/27. Asking for details (F.O. Humber 0025/28 to N.C.S.O. Methil).

CARLTON sunk 25/10. Unknown vessel blown up as reported in my 2220/25 now identified as steam drifter CARLTON of Grimsby (F.O. Humber 0945/28).

S.S. SUAVITY sunk. (mined 27/10). S.S. SUAVITY (634 tons) sunk about 1 mile N. No. 20 buoy presumably by mine all crew rescued and landed at Hartlepool (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0210/28).

Harwich. Two violent explosions seen and heard by C. G.Walton and P.W.S.S. at 0335 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0359/28)
Following from H.S. Patrols. Loud explosion about 30 yds. from ship's quarter presumably in position of mine dropped. A.G.0332 (F.O.I.C.Harwich 0635/28). My 1032/28 and 2118/27. Intend again to continue clearance sweep 29/10. Request air protection 0830 to 1730. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1856/28).

/ Tyne ....

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued)

Tyne.

Ground magnetic mine detonated off North Tyne Pier Light (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0925/28) Port of Tyne open (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1507/28).

Operation E.3. 43.

Completed. Nothing to report (S.O.20th D.F. 1159/28).

WALPOLE mined.

WALPOLE mined aft in 51° 51' N. 1° 34'E. Am taking in tow. (WINDSOR 0730/28).

My 0730 explosion occurred close under WALPOLE stern, ship not holed. WINDSOR 4 cables astern WALPOLE speed 12 knots. One mine only depth of water 10 fathoms. No casualties position 262° sunk light vessel 8 cables. (WINDSOR 4 cables astern WALPOLE speed 12 knots. One mine only depth of water 10 fathoms. No casualties position 232° sunk light vessel 8 cables. (WINDSOR 0749/28)

C.G. Walton and N.E. Swin Light Vessel reports at 0730 loud explosion N.E. one and a half miles from this station, Two destroyers in vicinity and he thinks one has struck a mine. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0755/28.)

Harwich 28/10 departures Rescue Tugs MURIA and KENIA at 0924 to assist WALPOLE. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0937/28). WINDSOR reports: My 0730 proceeding Sheerness making good 7 knots request Tug may meet Mouse Light Vessel 1245 WALPOLE has leaked in No.3 Oil Fuel tank both dynamos out of action turbine feet cracked steering working in hand. 1012/28 Ends. Request instructions. (C.in C. Nore 1441/28 to Adty.)

WALPOLE can be taken in hand now by Green and Silley Weir, Albert Dock. (D.O.D. (H) 1735/28 to C.in C. Nore).

SHEAF FIELD mined.

WESTMINSTER's 1005. (Not to Admiralty) SHEAF FIELD in tow of Tug settling slowly. PUFFIN standing by. (WALLACE 1008/28).

/ SHEAF FIELD .....

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued).

SHEAF FIELD (2719 tons) beached 3 miles N. Cork light ship, salvage Officer unable to board observed after part burning fiercely but expects high tide tonight will extinguish fire. Master fears fire will reach magazine. Ship was fourth in line ahead one mine exploded under starboard quarter holeing ship and causing fire. One casualty M.S. Gunlayer Lewis and Hotchkiss M/G salved. Position of mine 2 miles S.W. of sunk L.V. seems approximately same as WALPOLE's. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1832/28).

Milford Haven. Port is open (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1243/28).

Swansea. Port is now open (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1254/28)

Barry. Port is closed owing to mines (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1324/28).

Humber. Magnetic mine exploded by LL Trawlers at 0925 off Spurn Point Lighthouse (F.O. Humber 1430/28).

Rosyth. My 2301/27 approach channel to Rosyth between 2° 52' W. and Eastgate Inchkeith is open (C.in C. Rosyth 1523/28).

SAGACITY mined. M.V. SAGACITY (460 tons) damaged by underwater explosion off Spurn at 1326. Salvage operations proceeding. Tug proceeded 1520 (F.O. Humber 1840/28)

Plymouth. Port closed due to suspected minelaying proceed Dartmouth arriving 0730/29 (C.in C. W.A. 2021/28 to MACKAY, JERSEY).

Falmouth. 3 minesswept in proposed new channel to Fowey (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 2028/28).

5th M.S.F. Available ships may be required to sail for Harwich p.m./30. To be at 1 hour's notice from 1600/30 (D.M.S. 2347/28)

WYTHBURN. Mined and sunk in 51°22'30"N. 3°15'W. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1834/28 to Adty.)

DEVONIAN. British, 622 tons. Mined and sunk in 51° 22' 36" N. 3° 14' 48" W. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1835/28 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.	8 Destroyers seen. (P.R.U. St. Eval 1430 and 1940/28).
Hamburg, Bremen) Bremerhaven.)	R/C at 1130/28. (P.I.U. 1743/28 to N.I.D.)
Stavanger.	Shipping on 25/10. (P.I.U. 1835/28).
Flushing Breakens) Zeebrugge, Ostend,) Boulogne.)	R.C. at 1050/28. (P.I.U. 1840/28).
Off Scheldt.	At 1500 in 52° 9'N. 2° 33'E. 9 Destroyers escorted by A/C steering 055° at about 15 knots. A/C report. (Air Ministry 1721/28 to H.Q.C.C.)
Emden) Willemsoord)	Shipping and Barges at 1130/28. (P.I.U. 2237/28)
Re N.A. Stockholm 1244/26.	Your 0040/28 word is LARACHE. (N.A. Stockholm 1011/28).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys.	Shipping.
O.B. 235.	My 1845/27. Estimated will be 4 hours early. (C.in C. W.A. to JASON, CAMELIA, HONKYSUCKLE, 0037/28).
S.L. 51.	Polish destroyer BURZA to meet (C.in C. W.A. 1835/28) My 0805/27. Unable to locate S.L.S. 51 and have not yet rejoined S.L. 51. S.E. gale, very high sea. Position at 0800/29, when will take escort to meet convoy. (ALCANTARA, 1901/28).
E.N. and F.S.	Additional escorts for convoys 22 to 28. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1616/28).
W.N. 26.	LEDA, ALBURY and KELLETT to sweep ahead of. (A.C.O.S. 1616/28). Position (ELLESMERE, 1645/28)
W.N. 28.	Propose cancelling as only 5 ships ready from all ports. (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1551/28). Your 1551. Convoy W.N.28 is to be sailed as escorts are required at Rosyth to bring back E.N. convoy. (C.in C. W.A. 2241/28).
H.X. 81.	Not met. Her movements. Weather. (WALKER 1900/28).
Routes, Air Zone.	In view of A.O.C. in C., C.C's 1315/28, re air escort available for ships, agree to moving the zone to 10° W. Request routes may be regulated so that inward and outward bound ships pass this longitude of a given latitude and time. (C.in C. W.A., 2031/28).
Troop Convoys. W.S.4A.	Admty. 2108/26. Consider 12 destroyers required to screen CORNWALL, BERWICK and W.S.4A. Anticipate 8 available. Grateful if you could make up deficiency. (C.in C. W.A., 1337/28 to C.in C. H.F.) Your 1337. BEAGLE now at Greenock is available. Will try to provide one other, but cannot do more than that. (C.in C. H.F. 2230/28). Orders to BEAGLE (C.in C. H.F. to F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2225/28). Route for convoy. CAIRO to sail as A/A escort. (C.in C. W.A. 1545/28).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Trawlers for Casablanca

French Trawler MARCELLA, MARTIN LE GASSE, JACQUES COEUR, DUGUAY TROUIN, BOIS ROSIE, left Newfoundland possibly for Casablanca. If intercepted send in to a Port in U.K. Others may follow. (V.A.N.P. 0010/28, to Western Patrol)

Following French trawlers left St. Pierre Newfoundland 19/10, believed for Casablanca. MARCELLA, MARTIN LE GASSE, EMMA DUGUAY TROUIN. 21/10 BOIS ROSE and one other. Others including sailing and Auxiliary vessels are likely to follow. All the above if encountered are to be sent in to a U.K. port. (F.O.C.N.A. 1029/28 to ships on N.A.A.)

Vichy French Colours

Vichy French merchant ships observed to fly yellow flag of Irving and Johnson Ltd., to French ensign and to have yellow border painted round French ensign on ship's sides (C. in C., S.A. 1118/28)

SAVOIE Dakar Troops

Report (B.2) left Casablanca for Dakar 27/10 with Senegal troops and munitions. (F.O.C.N.A. to Admty.)

Libreville

(C.S.1. 1432A/28, to Admiralty, see Operations Volume.)

North Atlantic

VICTORIA

Your 1235/19. Asking whether French Govt. have obtained German guarantee. French should be asked to sent VICTORIA with British seamen to Gibraltar, not Lisbon. (Hd. of M to N.A.Madrid,1055/28)

French Food Ship

Gibraltar 28/10 1120, French surveying ship ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ passed from Westward to Eastward escorting S.N.A. 7. Ship signalled S.N.A.7 carrying foodstuff for only the use of French people. (S.O.I. Gib., 1133/28 to Admty.)

/KINGSTON SAPPHIRE..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

KINGSTON SAPPHIRE — Officers and men of H.M.trawler KINGSTON SAPPHIRE will probably be allowed to go to Gibraltar in a few days. (N.A.,Madrid, 1950/28)

CANADA, French Hospital Ship — My 1331/21 French N.A. requests most urgently reply today if possible as Hospital Ship CANADA is due to leave Toulon tomorrow. (N.A.Madrid, 1225/28, to Admty)

Route — N.A.Madrid's 1331/21. French hospital ship CANADA should be routed through following positions to Bar Light Ship. She should not be sailed unless she is fully equipped and fuelled, stored to carryed 250 patients and has been provided with German safe conduct. (Head of M. 1913/28 to F.O.C.N.A., and N.A. Madrid)

South Atlantic

DELHI
DEVONSHIRE — Movements ordered. (C.S.i., 1016A/28)

French Prisoners — Request arrangements may be made for transport and armed guard to disembark 28 white French, two Arab and 45 Kroomen prisoners of war ex French ship ALBI immediately on arrival of DELHI at base buoy about 1800/29 (DELHI 2024/28 to N.C.S.O. Duala)

Troop Transports W.S. 3 A — My 1103/27. Officers and other ranks for East Africa ex WINCHESTER CASTLE too numerous to accommodate in ERINPURA alone, being distributed between ERINPURA and KHEDIVE ISMAIL which will necessitate latter calling at Kilindini. This also necessitated by Master KHEDIVE ISMAIL now stating margin of fuel too small for ship reach Aden with safety. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1040Z/ 28 to C. in C., E.I.)

/Your 1457/28.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Troop Transports W.S. 3 A-Contd.

Your 1457/28. As transhipment of troops in accordance my 1040/28 has taken place already and both ERINPURA and KHEDIVE ISMAIL are ready to sail with W.S. 3 A a.m./29, intend arrangements stand and ships sail accordingly. (N.O.I.C.Simonstown 19332/28 to D.S.T.) War Office averse to OROPESA being held Aden or to diversion of whole convoy. Suggest maximum number be transferred from OROPESA to WINCHESTER CASTLE and other vessels in convoy. (D. of S.T. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1957/28)

Overdue Shipping

My 1215/9. Cancel ANDELLE (S.O.I. Capetown 1105B/28)

Stores, Lagos

Your 1441/27. Am embarking stores. Am informed by N.C.S.O.Lagos that if in the future H.M.Ships require to store at Lagos it is absolutely necessary that stores of all descriptions except meat and potatoes should be sent and held as stock by himself. (MILFORD 2150/28, to F.O.I.C.S.)

Mediterranean

Greek Entry into the War

Following is Mediterranean Station message 283 B. A state of war exists between Greece and Italy. T.O.O. 0650/28. (C. in C. Med., to S/M's. Med. Fleet, 0715/28)

Fleet Disposition

Forces at sea have been recalled to fuel. The Fleet will proceed as soon as sufficient Destroyers have been collected probably this evening. Intend to use Suda Bay or other Greek Port for fuelling. (C. in C., Med. 0729/28 to Admty.)

Crete

Matter of first importance to prevent an Italian landing in Crete. (V.C.N.S. to C. in C., Med. 1049/28)

/Shipping.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Greek Entry into the War-Contd.

Shipping — Request instructions to all Greek shipping in Mediterranean to make for Gibraltar. (D.T.D. to F.O.C.N.A., 1153/28)
MOUNT ARTHA, MOUNT PARNES, MOUNT PINDUS sailed Gibraltar 25/10 first 2 for Savona latter for Genoa. Have advised them bt W/T to return Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1002/28)

BARHAM — Suggesting BARHAM, destroyers and if possible one cruiser join his flag as soon as possible in view of Italian situation. (C. in C., Med., to Admty., 1547/28)

Recognition — Your 1206/26. If satisfied secrecy of British system will not be endangered, you are authorised to take following action regarding recognition (D.S.D., to C. in C., Med, 1640/28)

Cables — C. and W. reports land line between Greece and Malta interrupted between Corinth and Zante. (C.T.C., no T.O.O., recd. 1524/28)

Greek Preparations — Greeks are preparing to lay mines in Gulf of Athens swept channel,
Our submarines are proceeding to enter PATRAS ready to proceed to Arta on corfu.
T.B.D's will be employed on convoy duty from third day.
Propose following recognition signals between British ships and Greek coast batteries vicinity Athens.
Night long read flashes repeat long red flashes.
Day nothing.
Both day and night for Athens Gulf request previous warning if possible to British Legation.
BOTANIKOS wireless station will keep continuous watch on 960 metres and pass all messages to legation.
Am requisitioning VICTORIA PATRIS and yacht CALANTHE.
Greek coastal battery will reply to red flashes with similar red flashes indicating recognition of ships as British.
(N.A.Athens, 0816/28 to Admty) (D.D.I.C., 1406/28)

My 0816....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Greek Entry into the War

Greek Preparations-Contd. My 0816. Cancel arrangements for Greek coast batteries reply. They will instead reply to red flash with series short and long white flashes. (N.A.,Athens, 0900/28)

British Help Anxious to help Greeks, but cannot think of anything from naval point of view except possibly stationing A/A cruiser at Piraeus, but this would not assist in defence of Athens. In view of your shortage, probable you could ill spare an A/A cruiser. Asking for suggestions. (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med. 1648/28)
Reply. (C. in C., Med., 2159/28) See Mediterranean Volume.

Suda Bay Party of officers all 3 services arriving by flying boat a.m./29 to get into touch with Greek authorities. C. in C., M.E. consulting with W.O. about sending battalion. Small convoy sails a.m./29 for Suda Bay, which port use as an advanced fuelling base. Fleet movement and AJAX. (C. in C., Med., 1649/28)

Shipping Safety of British, Greek and Allied vessels in or near Greece is first essential, but they should load as much chrome and magnesite cargo as can be lifted in safety before vessels clear from Greek ports. (Hd. of M., 1812/28, to C. in C., Med.)

Crete "Action" Code word "action" established for a certain operation. (C. in C., Med., 2101/28)

Greek Submarines Area in which they may be operating. British submarines to keep at least 10 miles outside this area. (Capt 1 S.F., 2309/28)

Situation, Air Attacks Up to 1800 this evening artillery duels only on sectors of Albanian frontier. No indication yet of serious attack. Following bombed with insignificant damage, Tatoi aerodrome, Patras, Corinth Canal, twice (no damage), Preveza (Mainly in sea) No enemy action against Corfu (Military Attache, Athens, 2090/28)

/Italian....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Greek Entry into the War-Contd.

Italian Intelligence

Result of air reconnaissance 1200 to 1700B/28.

Main Italian Fleet in Taranto and Brindisi
Two destroyers south of Brindisi steering north.
Convoy of five merchant vessels off Taranto eastbound.
Three destroyers off Spartevento Cape and three destroyers north of Cape Colonne all northbound.
No enemy activity in Corfu, Argostoli, Gulf of Patras or adjacent waters.(T.O.O. 1911/28) (V.A.Malta, 1923/28)

Air reconnaissance today reports Brindisi one battleship 4 cruisers 6 destroyers, Taranto 5 battleships 5 cruisers large number of destroyers. (Capt S. 1. 1707/28, to S/M's on Patrol)

Greek Shipping

On instructions of Greek Government all Greek vessels in Pacific if bound for American Continent are to proceed. If bound for Asia they are to make for a British or Dutch port or for a port in the United States or under Untied States control.
In Atlantic vessels are to proceed if west bound.
If east bound they are to make for a British port.
No Greek ships are to proceed to France or to ports in French possessions.
(Hd. of M. 2005/23 "A" Message)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

RORQUAL	To leave Alexandria 0900/29 for Malta (Capt S.1. 0925/28)
French Warships Alexandria	Requesting information as to percentage of crews on board, whether any plans for seizing them, and Godfroy's reaction to Petain-Hitler agreement. (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med. 1649/28)
Operation White Collar	In view of cancellation of Operation Uniform cancel Admty 0205/18. Following are proposals for Operation White Collar. (See Mediterranean Volume) (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med., 1736/28)
HOTSPUR	F.O.C.N.A. 1314/27. Damaged asdic gear can probably be repaired at Malta by using parts from IMPERIAL. (V.A.Malta, 1645/28)
PARTHIAN	My 1731/27. Amending route. (Capt S. 1. 1611/28)
PANDORA TRITON	Orders for Patrol (Capt S.1. 2255/28)
French Shipping	Following French ships to be accorded safe conduct. Hospital ship SPHINX, leaving Beirut 28/10, MARIETTE PACHA and CHAMPOLLION leaving Beirut 31/10, ATHOS II and FLORIDA leaving Marseilles 31/10 for Beirut T.O.O. 2058/28 (C. in C., Med., 2103/28)
Fulmars	A.T. 1824/27/9. H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.. state Fulmars had not arrived Takoradi on 26/10 What is present position regarding these aircraft? (C. in C., Med., 1159/28 to Admty)
Turkey, Oil Shortage	In report to M.E.W. 278 of 10/10 from Consul-General, Istanbul, to M.E.W. on subject of lubricating oil and grease in Turkey, it is apparent she is about to experience an acute shortage which may affect running of her fleet. Consider M.E.W should be urged to lift their ban on lubricants imported by Turkey, otherwise we may find her fleet immobilized at a time when its services are urgently required. (C. in C., Med., 11312/28 to Admty)

Roumania....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Roumania. German Activity

Latest re German submarines in Black Sea is from Yugo Slav. Military Attache Sofia who states Headquarters German submarine command is at Bourgas. (Rated D.4) There may be nucleus of German meteorological and W/T stations there and at Varna.
Passage of German Naval Personnel to Roumania is reported from Budapest middle of October including 75 "Naval Technicians" by air.
No reports based on direct observations of alleged submarines from any source and am concentrating on this. (Wolfson, 1235/28 to S.O.I., Med.)

Operation M.A.Q. 2.

My 1235/24. Operation M.A.Q.2. completed. Attack on Maltezana carried out 27/10 aircraft claim hanger hit and set on fire. One hit on seaplane slipway. About 20 bombs dropped on barracks and ammunition dump area, one explosion occurred in approximate position of dump. Heavy explosion heard by last aircraft 10 minutes after leaving area. Incendiary bombs scattered over target area. Eight aircraft took part, all returned. No enemy air activity. (C. in C., Med. 2027/28 to Admty)

Air Action Against Italy

Air Ministry 2140/28. See Mediterranean Volume.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

CALEDON — My 1124/2/9. Add CALEDON to Red Sea Force (C. in C., E.I., 0618/28)

Convoy W.S.3. — Admty 2359/26 and N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1103/27 Cancel my 0946/25. Route for W.S. 3 A and W.S. 3 B.1. CARTHAGE to R.V. CUMBERLAND and W.S. 3 A at position A, where CARTHAGE will take over escort from CUMBERLAND.
On W.S. 3 B joining W.S. 3A, CARTHAGE to meet W.S. 3 C, and DORSETSHIRE to escort W.S. 3. to about 20° and the as arranged by S.N.O. Red Sea.
N.O.I.C. Simonstown to sail CLAN CAMERON and WOOLWICH in company when ready along W.S. 3. route. Convoy to be called W.S. 3 C and will proceed through Red Sea with B.N. 8½ (C. in C., E.I., 0810Z/28) C. in C., E.I. 0946Z/28 cancelled by above.

Hospital Ships — A.C.N.B. 0845/25. See no objections to it being accepted that cases embarked in QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA, and MAURETANIA forego the privelages attending passage in a hospital ship. (C. in C., E.I., 1132Z/28)

Convoy U.S. 5A — Sailing telegram. Escort, SHROPSHIRE, CARLISLE, KANDAHAR, FLAMINGO (N.C.S.O., Aden 1232Z/28)

Assab Raid — Intelligence Summary No 138 for 24 hours ending 1500/28. Three Blenheims 8 Sqdn. medium level attacks Assab 1025. Supposed petrol dump pin point 23 all bombs in target area. Fuel dump pin point 1 some direct hits. A.A. positions Hodunlai Island and buildings Fatba Island all near misses.

U.S. 5 A Escort — One Blenheim 203 Sqdn. Fighter escort for convoy U.S. 5 A 11 Gladiators 94 Sqdn. standing fighter patrol Aden 0455 to 0700 and 0735 to 1130. No casualties. All times G.M.T. (A.H.Q. Aden 1830/28)

China

Shipping — My 0745/23. PANG WO sailing p.m./28. Date of arrival Singapore. (Cdre. Hong Kong, 0725/28

Japanese Submarine lost — N.A. Tokyo 1012/26. This is probably one of the submarines mentioned in my 0404/7/9 (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0941Z/28)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Frendh Shipping — Amplifying his 1052/27. (C. in C., A.W.I. 0248/28)

DIOMEDE — To leave Trinidad 31/10 and patrol route AA to position 21.40 N., 52.00 W., returning to Trinidad (date) (C. in C., A.W.I., 1222/28)

U.S.- Asdics — C.A.F.O. 967/40, destruction of Asdic installation. American naval authorities have requested similar precautions be taken with regard to their A/S equipment. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1152/28)

Firing Report — Master of Yugoslav ship BALKAN reports white and blue rockets following gunfire in 20° N. 45° W., at about 2200 on 23/10. (C. in C., A W.I., 1533/28)

French Ships — Following French ships proceeding to U.K. from U.S.A. with Admty approval:-
WINNEPEG, SAN FRANCISCO, WYOMING, OREGON.
(F.O. 3 B.S. 1531/28)

Australia

Operations by N.E.I. Navy — Your 1707/24. As mandate precludes establishment of naval bases and Commonwealth Government has scrupulously respected that provision to avoid possible criticism of infringement of mandate, mainland mandated territory should not be used. Suggest alternative Papua e.g. Samarai. Subject to foregoing, arrangement vide para (iii) will be made. (A.C.N.B., 1218Z/28 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

28.10.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ALCANTARA. My D.G. Gear carried away. Am trying to repair. (ALCANTARA 1901/28 to Adty.)

ANDALLE. My 1215/9/10. Cancel. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1105 R/28 to Adty.)

Unknown Vessel. Niton Radio reports receiving at 1007 G.M.T. an Automatic S.O.S. signal bearing about 350°. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1110/28, to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

USARAMO — My 1318/25. Report proved unfounded. (Consul Vigo 0940/28) Entered Corcubion 23/10 and left early 25/10 (Corunna, 1530/28)

Unknown German ship approx. 10,000 tons, name painted out, arrived and left same dat Pasaje unknown destination. (V. Consul, S. Sebastian 1800/28) Possibly USARAMO (D.S. 420)

GEDANIA — Report that GEDANIA from Las Palmas making for St. Nazaire where she will arrive 30-31/10 (F.O.C.N.A. to Ships, N.A. 1224/28)

HELGOLAND — Bassenquilla reports sailed between 2100-2200 tonight. Bernuda pass to Netherlands VAN KINSBERGEN (S.O.I. Kingston, 2324/28)
My 2324. Ship reported steaming toward Costajenn. (S.O.I. Kingston 2345/28)

REGENSBURG — R.O.Yokohama reports (b.3) REGENSBURG arrived 28/10. (Capt D.S., Singapore 14042/28)

NORBURG — Arrived Galatz with manganese ore from Russia (D.S. 420)

DELOS — Arrived Galatz with barley from Russia (DS420)

YALOVA — Left Galatz for Batum (D.S. 420)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

USKBRIDGE (Torpedoed 17/10)

21 survivors from USKBRIDGE torpedoed in convoy at 0245 B.S.T. on 17/10 in a position 060° 40' N., 015° 50' W., landed Bermuda 27/10 by DALMORE. Third officer reported 6 others including Chief Officer in CULEBRA. All believed saved except Captain and Second Officer. Reference P.O. 3059/39, Thomas G. Perry, Gunlayer, reported among survivors in MONTREAL CITY. Request owner be informed. (c. in C., A.W.I. 1023/28)

My 1023/28. Third officer USKBRIDGE reports on each occasion of an attack on convoy NEVA showed lights but does not know if these lights were exposed prior to attack He further states that the 4 ships torpedoed on 15/10 and 17/10 were near the middle of the convoy whose speed was 7 knots. Bright moonlight. Not zig zagging. U-Boat not sighted by survivors. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1033/28)

EMPRESS OF BRITAIN

(Attacked by aircraft 26/10) Your 1025/28 German broadcast claims sinking EMPRESS of BRITAIN by torpedo from a submarine. (D.C. to BROKE, 1801/28) BROKE, S.O. Escort reports no A/S contact obtained (D.O.R. 29/10

Submarines Reported

1200 — Am over enemy submarine in 57.53 N., 03.08 N. (A/C 220 Sqdn., 1200/28) Enemy submarine has dived (A/C 220 Sqdn. 1202/28) Have lost touch. Request instructions. (A/C 220 Sqdn. 1245/28) Enemy submarine 360 course 5 knots (A/C 220 Sqdn. 1300/28)

1250 — Following intercepted 92 to S.C.D. one periscope sighted. (Valentia Radio, 1251/28) 55.42 N., 16.04 W. (Estimated) (D.S. 420)

0332 — 58° N., 13° W., Position indefinite. (DS 419)

1631 and 1818 — About 250' S.W. of Fastnet, position indefini (D.S. 420)

/Estimated....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.10.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: 1 U/B possibly Italian S.W. of Ireland far out.

German: 1 S.W. of Ireland bound northwards
1 was in area 56° to 57° N., 16° to 18° W at 1447/27
1 in area 58° to 60° N., and W. of 20° W.
1 approximately in position 55° 20° N., 9° W at 0200/28
1 was in about 58° N., 13° W at 0332/28.
1 more in North Western Approaches, whereabouts unknown.
1 in Northern North Sea homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1312/28)

Submarines Attacked

1650 Have attacked enemy submarine with bombs dive and estimate no hits. 59.09 N., 1.20 W (A/C Hatston 1650/28) Cancel Hatston A/C 1650. (A.C.C.S., 1917/28)

35

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands.

Destroyer Patrol. JACKAL and KELVIN last night patrolled between Eddystone and 3° West.

NIGERIA
AUSTRALIA left Scapa at 2345 for Plymouth. was ordered to return to the Clyde. The force under B.C.1 is continuing the search for the suspicious vessel reported on 27/10 by MAHOUT.

U-boat activities. The Admiralty today issued to F.O's concerned, an appreciation of U-boat activities.

Enemy Intelligence. It was reported today from Gothenburg that a German cruiser with 3 destroyers and a bomber passed Copenhagen at noon yesterday, northwards.

British Air Activity.

Bomber Command. A particularly successful attack was made last night on Krupp's Shipbuilding Yards at Kiel, where a hit was believed to have been made on GNEISENAU or its dock. Other targets attacked were at Kiel, Kiel Canal, Wilhelmshaven, Hamburg, Bremen, Emden, Cuxhaven, Antwerp, Calais and Ostend.
One aircraft bombed Rotterdam Docks today; results were not observed.

Coastal Command. Two aircraft attacked barges at Boulogne last night.
Six Blenheims bombed the power station at Brest today; at least two aircraft hit the target.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy "AGENT" (FN even) engaged a shadowing Dornier this afternoon off Orfordness, and drove it off.
H.M. Trawler ARCTIC TRAPPER was damaged this morning by 4 near misses and was beached off Ramsgate.
Italian aircraft dropped about 20 small bombs in the Dover area today, 15 of which fell in the harbour. The Dover-Canterbury railway track was damaged.
Portsmouth was attacked today, but apart from the railway damage was caused only in the town.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night was carried out in the Thames Estuary and possibly in the Bristol Channel.

/ Ports affected today. .....

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. (Continued)

Ports affected today.
Aberdeen (closed) Humber (closed), Tyne, Avonmouth and Newport (closed after mining of S.S. JAMAICA (Norw. 3~~0~~5 tons).
Rosyth, Plymouth, Aberdeen were opened today.
P.L.A. Sludge vessel HUMPHRIES (?HUMPHREYS) was mined and sunk this afternoon near East Oaze buoy.
Mines were found in the Dover and Harwich area.

East Indies.

R.A.F. bombed Assab again today (barracks were bombed yesterday.) No damage was observed.

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Administration of Destroyers by R.A.D.

Cancel my 2057/28. Your 1204/28 as destroyers operating in North West Approaches are based on 3 separate ports at each of which there is a Captain (D) and in addition a Flag Officer in Charge at 2 of these Ports. I consider that little advantage would be gained by transferring a Rear Admiral D to North West Approaches which would be likely to complicate unnecessarily existing organization. A repair ship is however needed at both Greenock and Londonderry. (C.in C. W.A. 0001/29 to Adty.).

War Policy.

A.M. 2028/25. Preliminary Conference under 1st Lord will be held in Adty. at 1600/30. (1st S.L. 1048/29 to C!s-in-C.)
A.M. 2028/25. Following is Agenda for Meeting on 31/10. (1st S.L. 2057/29 to C.'s-in-C.)
Your 1048/29. Weather permitting A.C.O.S. will leave Hatston 0900/30 to fly to Hendon direct. (A.C.O.S. 1220/29 to Adty.)

Oiling facilities at Campbeltown.

Urgently required. Propose OTTERHOUND, 900 tons capacity, be retained in Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1138/29 to Adty.)

Second Town Flotilla.

My 1852/26 and your 1008/21. Owing to enemy minelaying it has not been possible to advance the A/S training of Second Town Flotilla to the extent indicated in A.M. 1610/24. BATH, ST. ALBANS, and ST. MARYS have exercised once with submarine and one full calibre shoot. CHARLESTON has not been able to carry out practices at sea. As it seems improbable that further sea training can be carried out from Plymouth in the immediate future intend sailing ships P.M. 30th. (C.in C. W.A. 1612/29 to R.A.M.L.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 0200/29. (D.C. 0201/29).
At 1400/29. (D.C.1411/29).

Shetlands.
R.D.F. Stations.

At Skaw (North Unst) and Noso Hill (near Sumburgh) to be opened about 21/11. (D. of L.D. 1418/29 to F.O.C. Shetlands).

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

My 2108/26. Para. 1. delete COSTA RICA and insert from Clyde Troopships WARWICK CASTLE and HIGHLAND MONARCH. Para. 2. Delete BERWICK. (D.O.D. H. 1212/29 to C.in C. W.A.).
A.M. 0342/29. Particulars of additional Ammunition and Stores coming from War Officer. Embark as much as possible. (D.O.D. F. 1845/29 to BERWICK).
Request you sail and route BERWICK from Glasgow on 31/10 for Gibraltar. To proceed at best possible speed to R/V if possible with ARK ROYAL before entering Gibraltar. To be temporarily attached to Force H on arrival. (D.O.D. H. 2058/29 to C.in C. W.A.)
It may be necessary to recall leave and load ARGUS with Hurricane A/C. Preparations to be made but no action at present. (D.O.D. H. 2111/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

WORCESTER. Return to Harwich on completing Patrol 0 this morning. (Capt. D.16 0236/29 to WORCESTER)

EDINBURGH. Desirable you pass May Island not later than 1900 owing to probable enemy Mine-laying after dark (C.in C. H.F. 1226/29 to EDINBURGH).

SALOPIAN. My 1048/27. Cancel reference to O.L. 10. Leave Clyde 1600/31. Route to Area H.3. (F.O.C. N.P. 1248/29).

CHITRAL. Sailed in accordance with F.O.C. N.P. 1050/27. (F.O. Greenock 1328/29 to Adty.)

Dover. Patrols for Night 29/30. (V.A. Dover 1452/29).

Northern Patrol. Trawler Lines tonight. (A.C.O.S. 1536/29).

ROSEMARY. My 1017/29. Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1611/29 to JACKAL).

2nd Town Flotilla. Intend sailing Ships P.M./30. (C.in C.W.A. 1612/29 to R.A.M.L.)

HASTINGS. N.C.S.O. Methil 1052/29. Additional A/A cover in Pentland Firth. (C.in C. Rosyth 1645/29 to A.C. W.A.)

1st B.C.S. My position 63° 55' N. 11° 27'W. course 117° speed 15 knots. DIDO in company. Intend altering course to 167° at 0600/30. If you fail to rejoin during daylight to-morrow proceed to Scapa. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 1800/29 to PHOEBE, SOUTHAMPTON).

/ ELECTRA. .....

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued).

ELECTRA. C.in C. H.F. 1211/27. To sail from Rosyth 0900/29, R/V with EDINBURGH off Tyne Pier Heads at 1600/29 and provide A/S Escort to Rosyth. (D.4. 1954/27 toELECTRA).

Operations.

D.D.O.D.(H) 0010/29, 1st S.L. 0315/29, D.O.D.(F) 0342/29. See Operations Volume.

Operation "Lucid". Admty. 1956/18. Indicate route you consider should be followed by Force A. when leaving Downs. Request this route may be swept before the operation. (C.in C. Nore 0946/29 to V.A. Dover) Your 0946. Route should be (details). This route has been cleared for a distance of 3 miles from No.1 buoy. Given conditions of low visibility so that the operation is unobserved a search will be made as far as No.2 A buoy but it is observed that owing to strong cross tides the force cannot be sure of being in swept water unless following astern of minesweepers. (V.A.Dover 1153/29 to C.in C. Nore).

Proposing that Force C be cancelled and 4 destroyers detailed to each of the other two forces (C.in C. Nore 1250/29 to Adty.) Your 1250/29. Concur (V.C.N.S. 2139/29 to C.in C. Nore).

CHITRAL for Iceland. My 1328/29 (sailing of CHITRAL) add ETA Reykjavik 1000 B.S.T. (F.O. Greenock 1612/29).

Personnel for Iceland. LETITIA could take them leaving Clyde 8/11 (D.O.D. (H) 1912/29 to V.A.N.P.)

Search for raider. Your 1800/29 continue search with your force during daylight hours tomorrow on assumption that enemy is passing midway between Iceland and Faroes at a speed of 9 to 10 knots. AUSTRALIA act as in my 2147/28.(C.in C. H.F. 2140/29 to S.O. Battle Cruisers H.F.).
Following received since my 2140/29 from NORTHERN REWARD on T R 34. Begins sighted merchant ship two masts one funnel about two thousand tons steering east north east. Unable to intercept through bad weather and poor visibility? Ends. (C.in C. H.F. 2256/29 to S.O. B.C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

0.24.	Movements. (Capt. S.9. 1027/29 to 0.24) Your were probably reported by A/C at 0911/29. (V.A.S. 1049/29 to 0.24).
Harwich.	(Discontinuance as S/M Base). Your 1049/28. Approved. (V.C.N.S.1131/29 to V.A.S.) Concur (C.in C. H.F. 1218/29 to Adty.)
UTMOST) UPRIGHT) CLYDE)	UTMOST in 49° N. 6° W. at 0700/30. Route thence to Gibraltar. UPRIGHT leaves Portsmouth 1530/30. Route to Gibraltar. CLYDE in about 52° N. 15' W. at 0600/1, due Falmouth 0900/4 (V.A.S. 1518/29).
Greenock Area.	Movements. (F.O. Greenock 1523/29).
3 Destroyers.	Enemy referred to in my 1331/29 in 3 Destroyers. (Capt. S.1 1641/29 to PANDORA).
SWORDFISH) L. 27)	Positions. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1733/29)
Positions.	For following 24 hours at 0700/30. (V.A.S. 1744/29 and 2357/29).
S/M Patrol) Area S.3.)	My 1313/28. Area is re-established from 0001/30 between following limits. Area D.4. remains as stated. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2213/29 to Adty.)
0.14.	Your 1954/28. 0.14 arrived Rothesay 22/10 with 13½ tons of Oil Fuel remaining (V.A.S. 2333/29 to R.A. 3rd B.S.)
TITANIA	(Berthing at Holy Loch). My 1112/19. Requirements if approved. (V.A.S. 2352/29 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Suspicious Vessel.

Sunderland aircraft leave Sullum Voe at 1st light for Port Arthur 063° N. 016° W. thence parallel search Westwards between this position and 60° 14° W. thence to Invergordon to arrive after dark.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0050/29 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.)

Aircraft to proceed to 55° 25' N. 8° 15' W., thence sweep to 54° N. 11° 11' W. and further South to endurance. If Ship not met Relief A/C to be cancelled.
(Plymouth 0315/29 to Adty.)

Plymouth

Disposition of Balloon Barrage.

Air Ministry's 1325/26. Experience with enemy minelaying at Plymouth shows that aircraft do not intentionally enter balloon barrage and all recent mine-laying has been done outside the breakwater. If balloons are moved as suggested the enemy will be able to lay mines in the Sound thereby preventing the port being used as an operational base. The present trial arrangements whereby balloons are close hauled to 300 ft. for F/Bs. to operate is acceptable to 15 group but the risks to F/Bs. are not acceptable if balloons are flown at 1000 ft. or more. Thus if the latter were insisted on Plymouth could not be used as a F/B base.
It is essential that Plymouth Sound shall be available as an anchorage for ships and for operating F/Bs. Some risks are inevitable and it is considered the possibility of losing some balloons due to close hauling to 300 ft. should be accepted.
Agreement has been reached locally that the present arrangements are the best that can be devised and should continue balloons being close hauled to 300 ft. for a minimum period when required by Mount Batten for F/Bs. to operate. This is the only acceptable solution to the problem, though it is realised that it may not be in accordance with present Balloon Command practice.
(C.in C. W.A. 1102/29 to Adty.)

Sunderland A/C capsized.

4 Hudsons leaving shortly to search area till dark (C.in C. Rosyth 1254/29 to AUSTRALIA) Located Sunderland by D/F at 1240. (C.in C. Rosyth 1338/29 to AUSTRALIA) Sunderland capsized before reaching at 60° 46' N. 11° 3' W. Have rescued 9 and searching for remaining 4. (AUSTRALIA 1534/29 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Rosyth.

Air Searches tomorrow. (C.in C. Rosyth 1954/29).

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

German A/C in Stour.	Crashed in Stour. 3 airmen surrendered at Thorpe le Soken and Shotley. (F.O.IC. Harwich 0701/29).
Iceland.	German aircraft sighted 1030/28. Monoplane sighted 0900/21 (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1205/29)
Ipswich.	Grenade dropped on docks at Ipswich yesterday exploded whilst being made ready for countermining causing loss of life. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1250/29).
DUTHIES (bombed 25/10)	Sank alongside at Montrose. Thought she will be total loss. Details. Asking for dispcsal of crew. (Arbroath 1440/29).
A/C exploded off Methil.	In the air. Details. (C.in C. Rosyth 1533/29).
Convoy"AGENT".	1 aircraft shadowing 52° 2' N. 1°42' E. (WESTMINSTER 1540/29) 1 aircraft 52° 8'N. 1° 51' E. (WESTMINSTER 1641/29). My 1641. Aircraft identified Dornier 17. Engaged, driven off to eastward (WESTMINSTER 1647/29).
Capt. D.21.	30 enemy aircraft 18000 ft., off Mouse (Capt. D. 21 1633/29).
Havant.	Minor damage at Leigh Park House night 28/29 Oct. (Supt. C.E. Portsmouth Dockyard 1830/29).
ARCTIC TRAPPER.	(H.M.Tr.) bombed at 1054/29 097° Ramsgate one mile damaged by 4 near misses. Ship beached off Ramsgate,hoped to refloat 30/10, no casualties. (V.A. Dover, 1921/29
Dover.	Italian aircrafts (identified as Fiat B.R.20's and Savoie Marchetti 79's) at 1635 dropped about 20 small bombs in Dover area, 15 in harbour, 5 in town. (V.A. Dover 1921/29)
Long Sand.	At 2215/28 aircraft dropped 2 mines or bombs approx. on Long Sand. Wreck of CITY OF BRISBANE may have been mistaken for ship in Fairway of Edinburgh Channels and used as aiming mark. (S.O. Thames L.D.F. 1200/29).

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Aberdeen.	Port closed due to suspected minelaying and probably opening 1200 (N.O.IC. Aberdeen 0032/29).
Humber.	Closed to navigation. Aircraft minelaying (F.O. Humber 0047/29, 0112/29 to WORCESTER, VENOMOUS, SALAMANDER, FITSROY.)
Tyne.	Closed owing to enemy mines (F.O.I.C.Tyne 0132/29). One ground magnetic mine detonated red LL at 0850/29 88° N. Tyne Pier Lt. 28½ cables (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1040/29) Port open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1229/29).
Rosyth.	My 2301/28. Approach to Rosyth is open. Instructions for entering (C.in C. Rosyth 0810/29) My 0810. Both sides of QZS 152 and QZS 175 now open. Instructions for entering (C.in C. Rosyth 1251/29).
Nore.	6 to 12 objects heard to drop apparently in Medway Channel 0650. Two explosions at 0720 1 cable E.N.E. magnetic from No.5 buoy Medway Channel (XDO 0900/29).
Milford Haven.	Your 2321/22 (re clearance of minefields) Unable to commence operation today as intended, owing to weather conditions (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1033/29).
Plymouth.	Cancel my 2040/27. Port of Plymouth is open. Ships are to keep in searched channel when approaching. (C.in C. W.A. 1105/29) Port of Plymouth is closed owing to mines (C.in C. W.A. 2033/29).
Port Talbot.	Now open (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1120/29).
Aberdeen.	Opened to traffic using north side of QZS 161 (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1225/29).
JAMAICA (Norw. 3015 tons)	Received 1425 G.M.T. from S.S. ARAYBANK, S.S. JAMAICA mined off Makenzie Buoy standing by to pick up crew (Burnham on Sea radio No. T.O.O. Received. 1452/29) Mined in 51° 21' 30" N., 3° 8' 0" W. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1900/29). Arrived Avonmouth 30/10 (D.S. 422).
Avonmouth and Newport.	Closed; movement of shipping prohibited east of Breaksea L.V. except for enterir Cardiff by swept channel (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1900/29, 1638/29).
Operation B.S.44.	Intend TEVIOT BANK and PLOVER to sail from Spurn Pt. 1600/31, take departure from 20 F. buoy 0800/1 returning to 21 buoy. Laying will begin at 1030/1 (S.O. M.L. Immingham 1426/29).

/ Dover. .....

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Dover. Routine sweeps today. 2 mines found in QZX 220 (V.A. Dover 1616/29).

G.W. HUMPHRIES. PLA Sludge vessel mined at 1530/29 near Eastoke L.V. has now sunk. Position etc. of wreck. 17 survivors, 9 of whom are injured landed at Southend from tug and pilot vessel. Believed 7 missing (C.in C. Nore 1901/29) Mined East Oaze buoy bearing E.S.E. about 2 cables. Details (C.in C. Nore 1911/29).

Harwich. Details of sweeping. 2 mines found. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1927/29).

Enemy Intelligence.

Stettin, Swinemunde, Rostock, Brunsbuttel, Cuxhaven, Emden, Wilhelmshaven, Delfzijl. R.C. on 29/10 (P.I.U. 0110/30 to D.N.I.)

Kristiansand. Shipping on 24/10. (P.I.U. 0132/29 to N.I.D.)

Lorient. At 1500/28. 8 possibly 9 S/M's. (P.R.U. St. Eval 0200/29 to H.Q.C.C.).

Saint Nazaire, Nantes R/C on 28/10. (P.R.U. St. Eval 0200/29 to H.Q.C.C.).

Englishmans Gat. At 0700, 7 E-Boats. A/C report. (Air Min. 1016/29 to H.Q.C.C.)

Enemy Cruiser. German 2-funnel Cruiser about 10,000 tons, with 3 Destroyers and one Bomber passed Copenhagen at 1200/28. Assessed B.1. (British Consul, Gothenburg 1655/29 to Admty.)

La Pallice. La Rochelle. Gironde. Shipping seen. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 2330/29 to Adty.)

BREMEN, EUROPA Seen at Bremerhaven 10/10 camouflaged and fitted with D.G. rings. Assessed C.2. (N.A. Stockholm 1143/29 to D.N.I.)

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

SALVIA.	Has been aground Hammon Knoll. Anchoring until dawn. No damage. (SALVIA 060°/29 to C.in C. Nore.)
SITOEBONDO.	(Dutch, 7050 tons). S.O.S. at 0720 G.M.T. in 49° 47' N. 27° 15' W., course 200 speed 4 knots. Making water. Slowly sinking. (Plymouth W/T 0833/29) (Valentia W/T. 1250/29 to Adty.) (Lands End Radio 1300/29). Pumps now running but water winning. (SITOEBONDO 1251/29) To EXETER. Secret. Proceeding. Do not want your help. (Valentia Radio 1844/29 to Adty.)
HEARTSEASE.	My position 54° 10' N. 17° 1' W. Course 095° 7 knots. HEARTSEASE in company has slight damage forward precluding steaming its head sea. (GERANIUM 162°/29 to C.in C. W.A.).
ASHANTI) FAME)	Progress with salvage. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1920/29 to Adty.)
BRYNMILL.	(British, 743 tons) S.O.S. in 56° 50' N. 7° 20' W. Making water. (Scapa Base Ship 1327/29) Proceed with all despatch to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1450/29 to ENGLISHMAN) Sailed Tug ENGLISHMAN. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1552/29) Ship referred to in my 1450/29 believed to be BRYNMILL in 300° 12 miles from Oigh Sgeir at 1908/29. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2°30/29 to ENGLISHMAN).

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys.

Shipping.

S.L.S. 51.

BURZA and AMAZON to endeavour to intercept S.L.S. 51 consisting of 16 ships unescorted which may be 20 hours ahead S.L. 51. (route).
(C.in C. W.A. 0810/29, corrected 1054/29)

ALCANTARA's 1901/28. My position course and speed. Only HEARTSEASE with me. (ARROW, 0002/29). Not met. Hove to in 52.58 N., 18.30 W. HEARTSEASE lost touch, visibility 2 miles. (ARROW, 1015/29) Not met. Hove to vicinity of meeting position. Weather. (ROCHESTER, 1115/29).

BURZA sailed (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1050/29).

O.G. 45.

PHILANTE and TRIBUNE to act as ocean escort. (C.in C. W.A., 2203/29).

S.C.8.

Through necessity of keeping hove to have lost contact in 55.48 N., 15.36 W. C.O. injured. (SANDWICH, 1830/29). Not met. Intend proceeding Lough Foyle as ordered 1000/30. Visibility nil. (SHIKARI, 1901/29).

H.X. 80.

15 hours late at R.V. Considerable headwinds. All ships present totalling 33. (D.T.D. 1902/29).

Minesweeper Escort.

Admty. 2347/28. If weather still unsuitable, at dark today, minesweepers are to leave convoy and return to Granton. (C.in C. Rosyth to M.S. 5, 1235/29).

Troop Convoys.

W.S.4A

My 2108/26, para. 2, delete BERWICK (ocean escort) (D.O.D. (H) 2017/29).
My 2108/26. Following will be ready to sail 1/11 from Liverpool. DUCHESS OF RICHMOND with R.A.F. personnel for Montreal. AKAROA for Trinidad, ABOSSO for Freetown. (D.O.D. (H) 1908/29).

/ Air Escorts .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued).

Air Escorts. To facilitate provision of air escort, essential that date of arrival in U.K. of independently routed fast ships should be reliable. N.C.S.O's should ensure that arrival dates stated in Vesca telegrams are dependable, and masters are to be instructed to adjust speed so as to cross parallel of 51 degs. N. if coming from southward or meridian of 25 degs. W. if from westward so that ship will arrive at 10 degs. W. at 0600 B.S.T. on the day before date of arrival given in Vesca telegram. Similarly, fast independently routed ships are to be sailed from U.K. ports so that they will arrive at 10 degs. W. at 1800 B.S.T. These measures will enable ships to have fighter protection during daylight hours whilst passing through area of greatest danger from air attack.
(D.T.D. 1340/29).

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

MARCELLA. Intercepted. — At 2330/28 French trawler MARCELLA flying Vichy colours intercepted in 34.50 N., 15.00 W. bound for Casablanca and allowed to proceed as weather unfit for boarding. (F.O.C.N.A. 0454/29).

Libreville. — Message from Prime Minister to C.S.1. (1 S.L., 0145/29) See Operations Volume).

French Fleet. — French ships at Casablanca 27/10. (F.O.C. N.A. 1012/29).

Casablanca. GROIX. — My 1012. Some source now reports GROIX sailed from Casablanca 28/10 loaded with munitions for Dakar. (F.O.C. N.A. 2250/29).

Bathurst. — Military reinforcement of - see South Atlantic.

North Atlantic.

SIQUEIRA CAMPOS — My 1753/20. Now reported by Consul-Gen., Lisbon, ship leaves Lisbon for South America 31/10. (D.E.W.D. to F.O.C. N.A. 1913/29).

Force H., — (Force H 0748/29, see Mediterranean).

R.D.F. Patrols. — My 1006/22. Gibraltar departure 29/10. 2030, ARCTIC RANGER to relieve KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE. (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 2132/29).

South Atlantic.

Troop Transports. W.S.3A. W.S.3B. — Capetown departure 0800/29 Convoy W.S.3 A for Kilindini, Aden and Suez. CUMBERLAND as escort until relieved by CARTHAGE at 0130 transferring vicinity in 032° 30' S. 033° 00' E. Convoy W.S. 3 B will leave Capetown 30/10 Oct. and after overtaking W.S.3 A both groups will form one Convoy W.S.3 with DORSETSHIRE as escort. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0830/29).

Convoy sailing telegram (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0833 Z/29).

Your 1957/28 not received until action as indicated in my 1933/28 had been taken. WINCHESTER CASTLE had already been returned to owners and has left Capetown. OROPESA has not sufficient water to reach Suez without calling at Aden. W.3.3A left Capetown as reported in my 0833/28. GEORGIC has 147 R.A.F. personnel for Aden and DUCHESS OF YORK has 172 troops for Aden and 5 for Sudan. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0845Z/29 to D. of S.T.).

/ Details of ...

MOST SECRET.

23.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Continued)

Troop Transports W.S.3A W.S.3B (continued)

Details of W.S.3A route and escorts. (N.C.S.O. Capetown, to N.C.S.O. Suez, 1022/29).

Your 2211/23. Dept. of Defence, Union of South Africa, inform me very difficult to estimate transport requirements but hoped in about ten days time situation will be clearer. Meantime LLANSTEPHEN CASTLE is allocated for another trooping trip to Mombasa. Little likelihood of ship being released for some time. (S.N.O. Simonstown, 1304B/29, to D. of S.T.).

WESTERNLAND.

Agreement now reached with all concerned regarding despatch of drafts for East Africa in WESTERNLAND sailing from Takoradi on or about 31/10. (W.O., to Milwestaf, Accra, No T.O.O./29)

RESOLUTION

Your 1929/22 and 1931/22. Chief Constructor Watson now on passage to Freetown in connection with RESOLUTION, should visit Lagos as proposed and if convenient Takoradi. (D. of D. to C.in C. S.A. 0640/29).

MILFORD.

To act under F.O.C. 1 C.S. until further orders. (C.in C. S.A. 1039/29)

ROYAL SOVEREIGH.

Admty. 1432/13. Anticipated date of sailing from Freetown for Gibraltar. (C.in C. S.A. 1723 N/29).

Bathurst.

Re more from Takoradi of 4th Bn., Gold Coast Regt., R.W.A.F.F., to prevent seizure of Bathurst by coup de main. (G.O.C. W. Africa, Accra, 1840/29).

Mediterranean.

Italian Campaign Against Greece.

Italian Convoy.

5 or 6 Italian merchant vessels under convoy are north of Corfu. (N.A. Athens, 0923/29).

Code Words.

Army and Air Force will in future use Code word INDEX to denote Crete and Code word DRINK to denote Sua Bay in operational signals and orders. (D.N.I. to C.in C. Med., and V.A. Malta, 2012/29).

/ Greek Co-operation .....

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Italian Campaign Against Greece. (Contd.)

Greek Co-operation (contd.)

Message from President of Council to C.in C. Med. He will chase Italians out of Albania in a month if you can cut their maritime communications for that period. (Comment). All Greek bases at your disposal. Has authorized me to communicat to Greek Admty. any special activity desired by you. Am asking them to send up 3 submarines to operate inside Corfu Straits. (N.A. Athens to C.in C. Med., 0951/29).

Enemy Units.

A/C reports, 3 destroyers 062° 47 miles from 40° N., 18° E., course 000°, speed 18 knots, line ahead, 1120/29. 2 destroyers. 2 merchant vessels 044°, 50 miles, from 40° N., 18° E.,course 300° speed 8 knots, 1125/29. (V.A. Malta, 1243/29).
Position course and speed enemy battle fleet 40° 22', 18° 52', 000°, 18 at 1120/29. (Capt. S.1 to PANDORA, 1331/29)
Enemy reported by A/C 1120 now reported to have consisted of 3 6-in. gun cruisers.
No enemy activity in Ionian Islands or Gulf of Patras. One Greek destroyer off Patras.
Taranto and Brindisi not visited owing to bad weather. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1647/29).

Crete.

Your 2101/28 and 2159/28. Plans for military assistance. (1 S.L. to C.in C. Med., 1642/29) See Mediterranean Volume.

Laying of Mines.

N.A. Athens 1914/28. Unless contrary instructions received from C.in C., Med., declaration of areas dangerous owing to mines as defined in Admty. 1140/10/6 should be issued immediately as deterrent to Italians. Similar declaration will be made by H.M.G. at noon/30. Greek Govt. can be assured no mines will be laid without consultation. C.in C. Med. is however free to act as circumstances dictate in event of Greece being overrun. (Hd. of M. 1652/29 to N.A. Athens).

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued).

Force H.
R.D.F.
SHEFFIELD.

Admty. 0315/29, (See Mediterranean Volume) Consider it essential a long range R.D/F ship shall accompany Force H. SHEFFIELD preferred as she has worked with ARK ROYAL. (S.O., Force H., 0748/29 to C.in C. Med.) Your 0748/29. Request you will withdraw SHEFFIELD from patrol in sufficient time for her to accompany Force H. (D.O.D.(F) to S.O. Force H., 2211/29).

Reinforcements.

Admty. 0315/29. My proposals are as follows. (S.O. Force H to C.in C. Med., 1201/29). See Mediterranean Volume. Amending para. E., Admty. 0315/29. (D.O.D.(F) 0957/29).

Repeat "Hurry"

Further to my 0315/29. Aircraft reinforcements, and asking whether repeat "Hurry" could be carried out as a special operation conducted by Force H. (A.C.N.S.(F) to S.O. Force H. 2133/29, corrected 2323/29). Admty. 2133. Consider Force H can do this. Repeat that I consider inclusion R.D.F. ship for this operation as well as White Collar essential. (S.O. Force H., 2331/29 to Admty.)

Air Action against Italy.

Air Min. 1710/29 see Mediterranean Volume.

East Indies.

COLOMBO.

Your 1341/28 (no trace in W.R.). COLOMBO will be vailable to escort SELANDSI and LLAN STEPHAN CASTLE from Durban to Mombasa (date and route). Convoy will be called C.M.5. As regards CLAN CAMERON, see my 0810/28 which KANIMBLA and KENT will receive in due course. (C.in C. E.I. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1014/29).

My 1446/24. Intend calling convoy C.M.6 in view of my 1014/29. C.in C.E.I. 1016 Z/29.

Troop Transports.

Your 0402/26. Confirmed that QUEEN MARY, MAURETANIA and AQUITANIA are to return to Sydney on completion of discharge at Bombay. Request date of sailing. (D. of S.T. to P.S.T.O. Bombay, 2223/29).

Bahrein.

Concur with Political Resident, Persian Gulf, 2 naval guns being landed at Bahrein does not consitute fully effective A/A defence. (C.in C.E.I. to A.D.C. British Forces, Iraq, 0810/29).

/ Raider Report. ..

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (continued).

Raider Report. My 1458/27. Mombasa Radio now reports that Kismayu Radio sometimes works commercially with Mogadishu Radio using "RRRR" and "RRR" to denote message received. (C.in C. E.I. 1034 Z/29).

B.M.3. Sailed 29/10. Details. (Embarkation S.O. Bombay Desp. 1865/29).

China.

MOGAMIGAWA MARU Your 0802/10 Japanese ship MOGAMIGAWA MARU ex GETSUYO MARU, reported departed from Shanghai 26/10 for Japan. Vessel was not sighted passing Singapore but may possibly have evaded patrol or passed through Sunda Straits. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0302/29).

America and West Indies.

Interception of HELGOLAND. S.O.I. Kingston's 2345/28. VAN KINSBERGEN proceed towards Cartagena with all despatch. DIOMEDE proceed towards Mona passage (C.in C. A. W.I. 0301/29).
Your 0301. DIOMEDE sailed. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 0948/29). My 0301. Assumed speed of HELGOLAND 8.1. DIOMEDE establish patrol Mona passage by sunset 31/10. VAN KINSBERGEN search coast eastward as far as Cartagena then proceed to arrive off Colon by sunrise 30/10. VAN KINSBERGEN leave Colon approach at 1700 R/30 and proceed at best possible speed to patrol Windward passage. (C.in C. A. W.I. 1001/29.

Interception of French ships on high seas. My 1254/19 C.in C. China 0331Z/21 Deputy Representative of Ministry of Shipping Vancouver enquires if M.S. BOUGAINVILLE will be permitted to clear if MARTINIQUE completes loading at British Columbia Port. Request your ruling in view of Admiralty's Natel 2003/24. Last paragraph Indo China. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1131/29.)

Your 1101/8/10 New York report A 2 Begins. S.S. CHARLES L.D. is now at Casablanca loading cargo ex Norwegian S.S. JAGABIN for U.S.A. via Martinique.

/ French .....

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

French apparently claim that goods are American property and that U.S.A. Gov. is concerned in arrangement. Insurance firm here is seeking war rate of insurance on general cargo value exempt 50 thousand dollards to 500 thousand dollars to be carried by CHARLES L.D. on return voyage Martinique to Casablanca. Company is asking telegraphic enquiry from France. Ends. M.E.W. and Washington informed. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1202/29 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Interception of OSORNO — S.O.I., Callao 1515/29 (not to Admty.) Proceed at best possible speed to patrol off Talcahuano to intercept German ship OSORNO BISHOPDALE will be directed to follow you south. (C.in C. A.W.I., to PRINCE ROBERT, 1901/29).

Convoy S.C.10. — Draft sailing telegram. Escort FOLKESTONE (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1030/29).

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HELGOLAND. Plans for interception (see America and West Indies).
Confirmed HELGOLAND sailed 2030 G.M.T. carrying cases machinery on deck.
Rumoured bound for Martinique (B.3) (S.O.I. Kingston, 1221/29).
My 1221/29. Barranquilha now reports time of sailing as 2030 local time not G.M.T. (S.O.I. Kingston, 2115/29).
Press reports HELGOLAND sailed Puerto Columbia last night without permit. Believes several German aviators on board from Columbia. Panamanian Air Co. (N.A. Buenos Aires, 1328/29).

MADRID. Consul Las Palmas reported rumour that she is preparing to depart for Casablanca or Dakar. (F.O.C. N.A. 0025/29).

OSORNO Plans for interception (see America and West Indies).

IDARWALD Air mail letter from Capt. Fromke German Ship IDARWALD Tampico to Hamburg-America Line Hamburg, dated 14/10 states extensive repairs have been effected since September 1939 and ship is ready to sail at 24 hours notice. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1723/29).

CORDELIA Arrived Galatz from Russia (Wolffson, Beyoglu, 1027/29).

LARISSA)
DELOS)
CORDELIA) Left Galatz in ballast for Russia
ARKADIA) (Wolffson, Beyoglu, 1027/29).
ITHACA)

KERSTEN MILES At Teneriffe, has taken in 100 tons coal. (D.S. 421).

TRAPANI Reported to be leaving Genoa in few days believed for Barcelona. (D.S. 421).

GALILEA. Being docked at Palermo 27/10 and having 2 rescue rafts fitted. (D.S. 421).

SCHARNHORST. Passengers arriving Shanghai from Kobe state she is being fitted as a raider. (D.S. 421).

SPEZIA. which left Valenica with cargo of lemons 22/10 is known to have been at Genoa 25/10 (D.S. 422).

ARABIC)
CHIKA) Bulgarian under German charter, left during week ending 26/10 for Odessa (D.S. 422).

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

EDERA. Left Corunna midday/29 reported to be for Ferrol. (Corunna, 1300/29). Arrived Ferrol where she will probably remain. (Corunna 1915/29).

TORCELLO) Varna reports each about 5,000 tons
CELENO) petroleum (Wolffson, Beyoglu, 1027/29).

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

HOMESIDE. British, 4617 tons. SSSS, 53.25 N. 19.30 W. (Valentia Radio, 1109/29). In Convoy S.L. 51 (D.S. 421).

HAULERWYK (sunk 30/9) Dutch 3273 tons. ROTHLEY arrived Capetown 29/10 with 27 survivors HAULERWYK picked up in 053° 37' N. 026° 10' W. on 2/10. HAULERWYK was unsuccessfully attacked by torpedo 1130/309 in 054° 28' N. 026° 33' W. and gunned by U boat at 1920/30 and sunk. No British subjects among casualties which include 4 ratings killed 7 wounded (now recovered).

PORT DENISON (sunk 26/9). ROTHLEY also reports picking up Survivors PORT DENISON 26/9 off Buchanness which were transferred same day to Naval Trawler. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1230/29).

Submarines Reported.

0200. S.S. GRACEHILL reports p/m sighted 2 miles off Mull of Galloway at 0200 heading S. (BRITISH HONDURAS, 050°/29).

1006. 47° to 49° N., 5° to 7° W. position indefinite. (D.S. 421).

1006. 58.30 N., 20° W., position very indefinite. (D.S. 420).

1056. Reported by a/c 56.00 N., 10.35 W., at 1056 (C.in C. W.A., 1127/29).

1527 and 1925. 59° to 60° N., 20° W., position indefinite (D.S. 421).

1031. S.W. of Ireland, position indefinite. (D.S. 421).

U-Boat Activities. Notes on, re routes and bases. Inference is that Lorient and possibly other ports on W. Coast of France are being developed into important bases. Italian Submarines working in Atlantic are based on Bordeaux. (D.D.I.C. 1532/29).

/ Estimated U/B dispositions. ....

MOST SECRET.

29.10.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Continued).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian - 1 possibly Italian, S.W. of Ireland far.out.

German - 1 about 250 miles S.W. of Fastnet at 1818/28 possibly bound northwards.
1 W. of Ireland bound northwards.
1 was probably in about 55 degrees 42' N. 16 degrees 04' W. at 1250/28.
1 in area 58 degrees to 60 degrees N. and W. of 20 degrees W.
1 in 56 degrees N. 10 degrees 35' W. at 1056/29 a new arrival in area.
2 more in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
1 was in 57 degrees 53' N. 3 degrees 8' E. at 1200/28 possibly outward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1339/29).

Submarines Attacked.

1055. By a/c 56° N., 10.35 W. Four 250 lb. bombs dropped. (D.S. 421).

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

FEARLESS Damaged	FEARLESS was damaged early this morning in collision with SS LANARK which was at anchor off Gourock.
STURDY	Went aground in Tiree this morning and broke in two later, becoming a total loss.
UPRIGHT	Left Portsmouth today to join the Mediterranean Fleet.
ARK ROYAL GLASGOW Operations "White Collar" "Hurry"	ARK ROYAL with 3 destroyers arrived at the Clyde at midnight 29/30 October. She has been delayed by the weather and, with GLASGOW, PASTEUR and HESPERUS is remaining in the Clyde.
Search by M.T.B's	The two available M.T.B's at Dover left harbour at 2315/29 to intercept surface craft reported approaching the charted position of South Goodwin L.V. but were unable to get in touch. The night was very dark. The enemy are assumed to have been minelaying as mines were swept today near the position.
Convoys	Convoys have been affected by the Gale. Five ships of W.N. 26 are aground off Hattray Head Other convoys are scattered or late.
ANTHONY COREOPSIS LEDA Damaged	Minor damage in collision has been sustained.
Dover Shelled	Dover was shelled this afternoon. There were no naval casualties.
U 237	HIGHLANDER with HARVESTER and SCIMITAR sank U 237 135 miles West of Bloody Foreland this evening.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

A convoy of 3 ships was bombed today off Barfleur, and one ship dropped astern. Submarine L 27 was informed.

Operations last night were affected by bad weather. Attacks were, however, made on naval targets at Bremen, Wilhelmshaven, Hamburg, Flushing. Ijmuiden, Ostend and Den Helder.

Enemy Air Activity

Damage was caused at Chatham Barracks this afternoon and at Deal yesterday.

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night suspected in the Thames Estuary and between the Firth of Forth and Hartlepool. See also Home Commands, search by M.T.B's.

Mines were found off Harwich and the Humber today.

M.L. 109 was mined and sunk at the entrance to the Humber today.

The following ports were opened today. Plymouth, Falmouth, Firth of Forth (completel Newport and Avonmouth will be opened at 0600/ 31. Barry, Barry roads remain closed.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

The commercial anchorages and northern entrance to Gibraltar were attacked this morning by what appears to be two Italian one man submarines or torpedoes. One Italian officer and one rating were picked up. One of the "torpedoes" was salved by the Spaniards.

Mediterranean

Patras was bombed twice today without damage. H.M.Govt. today declared certain areas of the Greek Coast to be dangerous owing to mines.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Code Word BLANKET proposed — For use by A.P. vessels as quick report of E.Boats heard or sighted. (V.A.Dover, 1027/30 to Adty.)

Western Patrol — (Possible Enemy attempt on Azores) Request when cruiser not available you adjust positions of A.M.C's on this Patrol to provide R/C. Squares F1, F2, and G2 well suited for this. (A.C.N.S. F. 2146/30 to F.O.C.N.P.)

F.O.Force H. is requested to inform F.O.C.N.P. when SHEFFIELD is expected to be withdrawn from Azores Patrol. (A.C.N.S. F. 2147/30 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Reply: 2/11. (S.O.Force N., 0836/31.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE — At 0200/30 (D.C. 0340/20) At 1400/30 (D.C. 1409/30)

Movements

NIGERIA — Sailed Scapa 2345 for Plymouth westabout. (A.C.O.S. 0014/30)

DIDO — Intend anchor Fugle Fiord at 1000/30 to secure shells and free Turrets, all jammed. (DIDO 0031/30 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.) Approved to anchor. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 0300/30 to DIDO)

Operations "white Collar" "Hurry" — Weather impossible for embarking Squadron. Am remaining Clyde at short notice. (ARK ROYAL 1055/30 to Adty.)

HESPERUS sailed escorting PASTEUR to R/V with ARK ROYAL as in my 1558/28 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1110/30 to Adty.) Escort PASTEUR to Clyde and report ETA (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1145/30 to HESPERUS)

My 1645/28. Proceed to Clyde. Report ETA (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1220/30 to GLASGOW) (C. in C., W.A. 1344/30 to GLASGOW)

/My 2111/29.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Operations "White Collar" "Hurry"-Contd	My 2111/29. Hurricane and Skua aircraft should be embarked as soon as conveniently possible. Ship to be ready to sail on 14/11. (V.C.N.S. 1313/30 to F.O.I.C.Greenock and ARGUS)
	ETA Clyde 1830/30. (GLASGOW 1446/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
	Admty. 2058/29. Route for Berwick as in my 1710/27 for ARK ROYAL (C. in C., W.A., 1530/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
	ARGUS will be brought up harbour to embark aircraft on 1/11. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1805/30 to Adty.)
	My 1220/30. If weather is suitable for flying intend sailing ARK ROYAL, GLASGOW, FOXHOUND, DUNCAN, ISIS and SS PASTEUR to pass through position 270° Lady Island 7 at 1230 tomorrow thence in accordance with C. in C., W.A. 1710/27. Request fighter protection and air escort be arranged accordingly. (F.O.I C. Greenock 2352/30 to C. in C., W.A.)
ANTELOPE ACHATES	To sail with O.B. 237 at 2315/31 (Capt D 121705/30)
Nore Command	Movements to 1200/31 (C. in C. Nore 1200/30)
2nd Towns Flotilla	Intend sail BATH, CHARLESTON, ST MARY, ST ALBANS at 1700/30 to Port Z.A.. (C. in C. W.A. 1401/30 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven)
HARVESTER	My 1655/29. Will be required to sail from Liverpool about 1100/1. (C. in C., W.A. 1410 30 to HARVESTER)
Western Channel	Night Report (C. in C., W.A. 1515/30)
AGAMEMNON	My position at 2200 is 57° 3' N., 1° 54' W. course 021° speed 10 knots. (AGAMEMNON 2106/ 30 to BULLDOG)
ESCAPADE	My 1012/29. Request she be off Troon 1130/30 in preparation for docking (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2119/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

MOST SECRET

30.10.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Suspicious Vessel.

Carry out unit patrols from 0800/30 between 064° 50' N., 011° 00' W., and following positions.
Start from Eastern end of beat. Enemy speed 10 knots homeward. Battle cruisers and FURIOUS will patrol to South Eastward of position 064° 05' N., 008° 00' W., If nothing is sighted by dark units proceed independently to Scapa. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 0031/30 to DIDO PHOEBE, SOUTHAMPTON)

My position 64° 24' N., 9° 45' W., course 135°, 10 knots. BORE X did not sight MAHOUT, but did sight a trawler on night 29th. (SOUTHAMPTON 1225/30 to C. in C., H.F.)

NORTHERN SKY to R/V with SOUTHAMPTON 10 miles 360° from Kalso Light. Take over BORE X and escort her into Kirkwall. (V.A.N.P. 1445/30) R/V 10 miles 180° from Myggenaes Light at 0500/31. (SOUTHAMPTON 1740/30 to NORTHERN SKY) My position 63° 41' N., 8° 24' W. course 175° 8 knots. (SOUTHAMPTON 1805/30 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.)
Your 1651. Not considered safe land fall. Am proceeding in accordance with my 1740 (SOUTHAMPTON 1855/30 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Iceland

(Transport of Personnel in LETITIA) your 1912/29. Concur. (F.O.C.N.P. 1057/30 to Adty,)

M.T.B's off South Goodwin Position

Acting on information received from Dover C.H.I. last night of surface craft approaching charted position of South Goodwin, the two available M.T.B's left harbour at 2315 to intercept.
Although kept informed of plotted positions of surface craft M.T.B's were unable to get in touch and sighted nothing. Night was very dark and units probably pass very close to each other. (V.A. Dover 1155/30 to Adty)

Patrol O.

My 1550/5/7. S.O. patrol O EGLINGTON (C. in C., Nore 1733/30)

/Dover .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednedday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Dover
Shelled

Sixteen shells fell in the Dover area between 1349 and 1451 today Wednesday. Of these one fell in harbour five in the sea at base of cliff near Eastern Arm and nine Inland outside the town. Two military wounded. No naval or civilian casualties (V.A.Dover, 1851/30 to Adty.)

Submarines

SWORDFISH

My 1800/27. 2 Torpedoes fired, estimate one hit. Trawlers sweeping off Cherbourg. Contant Flying Boat A/S Patrol in W.2. SWORDFISH 0203/30 to C. in C., Portsmouth) (S. 5. 1410/30 to L. 27)

H. 28

To join FN 23 near South Shipwash Buoy. (C. in C., Rosyth 0921/30 to Adty.)

SEALION

Delayed till p.m/31 by engine efect. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0951/30 to S. 3.)

USK

Report when ready to proceed and request C. in C., W.A. for Escort northabout to join 6th Flotilla at Blyth (S.2. 1029/30 to USK)

L. 27
UPRIGHT

Movements (C. in C., Portsmouth 1117/30) UPRIGHT left Portsmouth 1442/30 (C. in C., Portsmouth 1723/30 to Adty.)

CLYDE

To arrive Position A of Q.Z.S. 180 at 0900/4 (V.A.S. 1438/30 to CLYDE) Cancel my 1438/30 to CLYDE)

Bombing

My 1126/2. Havre, Lorient, Bordeaux, possibly Brest. (V.A.S. 1535/30)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0700/31. (V.A.S. 1719/30 and 2352/30)

TRIUMPH

Leaves Clyde 0830/6. Route tence. ETA position E. 0800/14 (V.A.S. 2302/30 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Patrols Cancelled

S.A. I.E., S.A. 2 N., and cross over A/S Patrol to N.W. of Cape Wrath cancelled. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1040/30) S.A. 2 and S.A. 3 cancelled owing to weather (C. in C., Rosyth 1230/30) S.A. 1 A and S 16 cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth 1510/30

Proposed Transfer of Aircraft from Hatston

It is under consideration to transfer 821 and 823 Squadrons from Hatston to the South West of England during the winter months. With enemy Naval forces based at Brest and the possibility of an enemy descent on Ireland, it is felt that these Squadrons would be more likely to find targets than in the comparatively few hours of daylight in the North. It is realised that these Squadrons are now primarily employed on A/S patrols. Request your remarks. (1st S.L. 1347/30 to C. in C., H.F.)

Belfast. Request Cancellation of orders to Ships

Following received from 13 group as telephone message from Aldergrove Sector who report that it originated from F.O.I.C. Belfast. Begins.
With effect from 00.01 G.M.T./24. Vessels in the Lough or in berth 1/2 mile of either side of the entrance Victoria Channel and the Abercorne basin from 1 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise are to open fire on all aircraft flying over avove areas. ends. Request these orders be cancelled immediately as being directly contrary to arrangements in your A 905 of 31/7. (H.Q.F.C. 1520/30 to Air Ministry)

Enemy Convoy Bombed

Convoy of 3 ships bombed on 009° BARFLEUR 3 miles, course 060°, ay 1232. One ship has dropped astern. (Capt S. 5. 1533/30 to L. 27)

Bombing of Enemy Coastal Batteries

Request bombing of Coastal Batteries between Calais and Ambleteuse from 0415 to 0545/1st during passage of C.E. 15 through Straits of Dover. (C. in C., Nore, 1702/30 to Adty.)

Plymouth Balloon Barrage

Very early approval requested to transfer of 4 balloons to other sites to safeguard searched Channel. Reasons. (C. in C., W.A. 1856/30 to Adty.)

Rattray Head

Request Fighter Patrol during daylight 31st (C. in C., Rosyth 2014/30 to H.Q.F.C.)

MOST SECRET

30.10.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Maplin Sands — VAN MEERLANT reports at 2025/29 aeroplane heard to shut of engine and shortly afterwards one heavy explosion occurred in mid air at estimated height of 5000 ft. in very approximate position over Maplin Sands. (S.O.T.L.D.F. 1030/30 to C. in C., Nore)

Chatham — Personnel Block and Officers Mess badly damaged. (C. in C., Nore, 1555/30 to Adty.)

Enemy A/C Policy — Following from 35th A.A. Brigade has been passed to Naval Air Stations. Begins E/A now concentrating on attacking aerodromes by day and by night. Daylight attacks are made at dawn or dusk when heights elected vary between 100 to 4,000 to 6,000 ft Ends. (R.A.N.A.S. 1733/30 to Adty.)

Deal — During air raid yesterday 1630 at Deal, three H.E. bombs estimated 500 lbs. fell in front of A and B blocks causing several casualties and extensive damage to windows and roofs and slight structural damage to many buildings provisionally estimated at £6000 immediate repairs £1,000. (Supt. C.E. 1843/30 to Civil Lord.)

Mining

LEDA, KELLETT, ALBURY — (Minesweepers) Your 2347/28 and my 1235/29 Delayed owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth 0741/30 to Adty.)

Plymouth — Port is open (C. in C., W.A. 0915/30)

Falmouth — Port now open (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0950/30)

S.N. 44 — Propose to sail at 1630/1 and lay within 5 miles of following centre line, starting at 1045 and finishing 1510/2. (R.A.M.L. 1045/30 to C. in C., W.A)

Firth of Forth — My 1301/26. Areas in Inchkeith Examination Anchorage and Leith Roads between following points may now be used. (C. in C., Rosyth 1205/30)

/Clearing....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Clearing of Minefield	(Between Coningbeg Light and 18 QZS) Adty's 2321/22. Operation cannot be begun till 4/11 owing to tides. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1305/30 to C. in C., W.A.)
Yarmouth	My 2125/29. DELAPOLE reports aircraft dropped 2 parachute flares followed by 4 splashes 400 yards N.N.E. from her and dull explosion as from bombs or mines. Her position was 1.9 miles N.E. Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1600/30 to C. in C., Nore,)
Nymphe Bank Minefield	ADVENTURE, working from Milford Haven will reinforce this field during moonlight periods, laying deep mines also on Irish side of Field. (V.C.N.S. 1631/30 to C. in C. H.F.)
Little Sole & La Chapelle Banks	During moonless periods proposed that ADVENTURE lay shallow Mines along following lines to hamper U-Boats from Biscay ports Request your early remarks. (V.C.N.S. 1631/30 to C. in C., H.F.W.A. and V.A.S.)
Newport Avonmouth	Open from 0600/31. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1752/30
Barry Barry Roads	Remain closed. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1752/30)
Harwich	148 QZS Clearance by Fleet Sweepers extended 7 cables further to eastward. 2 mines German Y type cut and sunk in position 52° 5.4' N., 01° 51.4' E., One sweep parted by anti sweeping device in approx same position. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1818/30 to Adty)
Humber	Red Magnetic Mine exploded by LL 323° 4 cables from No 3 Middle Buoy. No flame, smoke or discoloration. (F.O.Humber 1839/30)
M.L. 109	Mined about 112° 5000 yards from Bull Sand Fort at 1755. M.L. 106 returned to Grimsby with 8 survivors. (F.O.Humber 2127/30 to Admty) Wreck is ashore at Holmpton near Withernsea. Salvage Officer attending. 3 missing, believed dead. (F.O.Humber 1205/3 My 2127/30 M.L. 109 was returning to harbour with unsatisfactory engines and was to south of searched channel. Position 164° Spurn Main Lighthouse 2.9 miles. No information obtainable regarding particulars of explosio (F.O.Humber 1910/31)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Stettin, Swinemunde, Rostock, Cuxhaven, Emden, Wilhelmshaven Delfzijl.	R/C on 19/10 (IU 0110/30 to N.I.D.)
Boulogne, Treport, Dieppe, Fecamp, Havre Honfleur, Caen.	R/C at 1400/29 (PIU 0145/30 to N.I.D.)
Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Ijimuiden.	R/C at 1230/29 (PIU 0212/30 to N.I.D.)
German Cruiser and 3 destroyers passing Copenhagen 1200/28.	Your 1655/29. In which direction was Force proceeding. (D.D.I.C. 1114/30 to B. Consul, Gothenburg) Northgoing. (Gothenburg 1330/30 to D.N.I.) Report graded B.1. (D.D.I.C. 1748/30 to C. in C. H.F.)
German Main Units	My 1159/22. For Wilhelmshaven 21/10 read Wilhelmshaven 29/10. (D.D.I.C. 1511/30 to A.I.C. 45)
Large German M/V	ETA Brest from Atlantic about end October Speed 5 knots owing to engine trouble. (V.A.S. 2341/30 to S/M's Area B.)

MOST SECRET

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Wednesday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

BIBURY KOSMOS NATIA KILLORAN	Overdue. Probable fate (See South Atlantic)
2 Lifeboats	With survivors, reported from DELANE in 54° 30' N., 13° 10' W., (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1126/30 to Admty.)
FEARLESS	In collision with SS LANARK at anchor off Gourock at 0041/30. Damage. (FEARLESS 0209/30 to Admty.)
LISBON	British, 1984 tons. Ashore near Rattray Head. (C. in C., Rosyth 0817/30) A wreck on Rattray Briggs. (C. in C., Rosyth 0947/31)
SIMONBURN	British, 5213 tons. Ashore off Stonehaven Bay. Requires assistance (Scapa W/T 0600/30) Reported sinking 1500/30 in 355° 4 miles Rattray Head. Drifting Northward. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1900/30 to Adty.) Floated off p.m./30 and is drifting derelict. (C. in C. Rosyth 0947/31 to C. in C., W.A.)
BARON MINTO	British, 4637 tons. Ashore North side Stonehaven. (BARON MINTO 0607/30) Stranded on even keel (C. in C., Rosyth 0947/31)
CLUMBER HALL	British, 5198 tons. Ashore Rattray Head. (CLUMBER HALL 0801/30) Refloated. No damage (JASON 0925/30 to C. in C., Rosyth)
ALCORA	British, 1381 tons. Ashore Rattray Head. (C. in C., Rosyth 1057/30 to Adty.) Abandoning ship (Wick Radio 1316/30) On bean ends on sandy bottom. (C. in C., Rosyth 0947/31)

Position of steamers at Rattray Head noon 30/10 LISBON. Wrecked on Briggs. Crew landed at Fraserburgh 30. SIMONBURN. Abandoned and Afloat drifting north. Rescue Tug ABEILLE IV will endeavour to take in tow. Crew of 24 landed at Fraserburgh. BARON MINTO. Ashore in good position on Sand Spit Crew of 26 on board, remainder 31 landed at Fraserburgh.

/CLUMBER HALL....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

Position of steamers at Rattray Head-Contd.

CLUMBER HALL, refloated, proceeding south.
ALCORA, shore 2 miles North of Rattray.
Lifeboat embarking crew. Escort vessel standing by. No casualties reported.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1326/30)

Tugs ABEILLE IV and WATERMEUYER at Peterhead awaiting weather moderating to attempt salvage on BARON MINTO reported holed in engine room. Salvage Officer now at Peter-Head. Vessels cannot be boarded under present conditions PATIA has proceeded south ALTA bunkering off Fraserburgh proceeding south on completion. SIMONBURN has sunk. ALCORA practically dry at low water inside sand bank. Investigation proceeding.
LISBON total wreck.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1601/31)

My 1601/30 and 0947/31. SS CLUMBERHALL arrived Methil 1500/31. SS SIMONBURN not seen by searching aircraft and is presumed to have sunk. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1651/31)

ARIDITY — (Sunk by Mine 19/10) has been raised. (D.S. 422)

SHEAF FIELD — (Mined 28/10) No considered, with cargo, to be a total loss (D.S. 422)

STROMBUS — (Mined 26/10 and beached) has broken in half and is a total loss (D.S. 422)

DUNDAS — From U.K., due Durban 28/10. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town 0935/30 to Adty.)

FLAMINIAN — British, 2711 tons. Commodore of Convoy E.N. 12 now at Methil states FLAMINIAN repor being in collision at 0330/27 with an unknow vessel described as Destroyer near Kinnaird Head and was damaged above water.
Arrived Oban 1300/29. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1619 30 to F.O.Tyne)

/LEDA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

-30.10.1940
Wednesday

CASULATIES & DEFECTS-Contd.

LEDA

LEDA reports has dragged across merchant ship's bows. Merchant ship undamaged. LEDA holed in tiller flat, required dock-yard assistance but seaworthy in fine weather. (C. in C., Rosyth 1743/30 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen)
LEDA to proceed to Aberdeen as soon as weather moderates sufficiently. (C. in C., Rosyth 1817/30 to M.S. 5.)

KINGSLAND

British, 3669 tons. Being driven ashore inside Bosie Bank. Position 58° 5' N., 3° 20' W., (KINGSLAND 2118/30) As far as we know being driven on to Clythness or Borriedale Ness. Have lifeboat standing by. (KINGSLAND 2148/30)

STURDY

At 0630 today WESTERN ISLES reported STURDY shore in about 56° 29' N., 06° 59' W. RHODODENDRON was sailed from Tobermory and tug MARAUDER from Campbeltown to her assistance. Later reported STURDY broken in half but crew safe except 2 reported drowned. No communication has been receoved from STURDY. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1145/30 to Adty.)

4 officers and 77 ratings of STURDY sailed in RHODODENDRON for Oban ETA 2200/30.
3 officers and 19 men remaining with wreck. Ship is a total loss. Back is broken ahd stern turned through 90°. Body of leading stoker recovered. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1730/30 to Admty)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

M.V.BORE X — Rendezvous as ordered by H.M.S. SOUTHAMPTON West of Skopen Fiord and escort Finnish M.V. BORE X to Kirkwall. Acknowledge. (S.O. Trawlers N. Patrol, 1457/30 to NORTHERNSKY)

BLACKHEATH RALLUS and KERISTAN — Sailed for Clyde 0830. Details of personnel (Alabaster 1820/29)

BULLDOG — Two large ships escorted by H.M.S.BULLDOG pass Bell Rock 1900 Northbound speed 10 knots. C. in C., Rosyth 1838/30)

Signals required — The following signal is required in connection with the sailing of convoys:-
(1) On Convoy sailing.
(A) Reference Number of Convoy.
(B) Time of sailing.
(C) Escort
(D) Number of ships in Convoy.
(2) Above signal to be addressed to, etc.
(3) In the case of W.N. Convoys the above to be repeated to, etc., (C. in C., W.A. 1927/30 to N.C.S.O. Oban)

Air Escorts — Your 1340/29. Consider it essential to give the latitude at which ships will cross 10° W. in order that our aircraft can locate them.
2. Presume routes in Western Approaches will be repeated to me. (C. in C., W.A. 1950/30 to Adty.)

SS ADDA Personnel for Faroes — (1) SS ADDA, speed 12½ knots, carrying 550 Military Reinforcement Personnel for the Faroes will be ready to sail from Liverpool about 8/11.
(2) ADDA will be required to bring back 150 personnel from Faroes to Liverpool.
(3) C. in C. H.F. to state when it will be convenient to provide escort after that date (D.O.D. (H) 2219/30)

Convoys

W.N. 26 — Allowing speed of about 4 knots. Apparent no headway was made and convoy got split. Have located 5 ships aground close to north of Rattray lighthouse. Proceeding to endeavour to render assistance. Gale blowing along shore. (JASON 0820/30 to C. in C. Rosyth)

/Further....

MOST SECRET

30.10.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
W.N.26.-Contd.	Further to my 1326/30/10* SS PATIA anchored of Rosehearty. Commodore of W.N. 26 disembarked proceeding to Aberdeen. SS ALT at Fraserburgh. One vessel name unknown anchored in Aberdour Bay. SS SIMONBURN reported sinking 4 miles 355° Rattray. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1656/30) * no trace in War Registry-called for.
S.C. 8.	Lost contact with S.C.8 during bad weather. My position 0800/30 056° 00' N., 009° 50' W steering 270° Speed 10 knots to 011° W. searching for convoy. (GLADIOLUS 0858/30) My position 55° 52' 12° 17' passing FACTO ANVERS BENEDICK PARCHEMON. All proceeding Clyde not met Commodore reference MAN-O-WAR 1157 proceeding course and speed 078° 1 4 (WESTON 1350/30) Cmdr of Convoy and 8 ships in company including MAN-O-WAR. Estimated p.c. and s. at 1600/30 55 23 N., 11 26 W., 062° altering to 092° at 2330 speed 7½ (CAMPANULA 1601/30)
H.X. 81.	Separated from H.X. 81 in the gale. My observed position at 1000 059° 00' N., 012 22' W., course-degrees 137 making good 10 knots. GLOXINIA in company. Join me in 058° 15' N., 011° 00' W. at 1630 today. From latter position intend steering for 058° 00' N., 010° 00' W.(Weather) (ABERDEEN 1030/30 to WALKER, VANSITTART) Observed p,c and s. 057° 00' N., 014° 20' W. 099° 15 for splitting 0800/31. (GARDENIA 1710/30) My 1030/30. WALKER and VANSITTART have joined me. His intentions. (ABERDEEN 1815/30)
H.G. 46.	Convoy H.G. 46 due to leave Gibraltar 30/10 (route) through (R.V. with local escort) (F.O.C.N.P. 1200/30 to LAURENTIC, PATROCLUS, DERBYSHIRE, CILICIA, SALOPIAN, CAMITO.

/O.C. 45.....

MOST SECRET

30.10.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys-Contd.

O.G. 45	O.G. 45 sailed 1122/30 4 ships 8 knots escort WANDERER, WILD SWAN, CLARE. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1220/30)
S.L. 51	My p, c and s are 053° 40' N., 107° 16' W., 081° 16. No ship in sight visibility good. At 1930 will alter course to 261° speed dependent on weather. Request instructions. (ALCANTARA 1400/30 to C. in C., W.A.)
	My 1400/29. My position course and speed is now 054° 07' N., 013° 18' W., 057° 8 knots. State of weather. (PRIMROSE 1500/30)
	Ships scattered from convoy S.L. 51 may be met between 053° N., 018° 30' W., and 053° 50' N., 015° 40' W., during tonight Wednesday. (F.O. (S) 1547/30 to CLYDE)
	Met in position 055° 03' N.,012° 10' W., 26 ships. (ARROW 1630/30)
	My p, c and s 2130/30 054° N., 014° W., 060° 8. GERANIUM in company. Expect to overtake Convoy at daylight tomorrow, Thursday. Have closed down one boiler owing to bad leakage in joint. (HEARTSEASE 2020/30)
	On convoy splitting ROCHESTER PRIMROSE are to remain with Liverpool portion. (C. in C., W.A. 2043/30)
	On convoy splitting GARDENIA is to remain with Liverpool portion. (C. in C., W.A. 2051/30)
	Proceed North Channel at best speed. Further instructions as to onward route will be signalled. (C. in C., W.A. 2351/30 to ALCANTARA)
O.B. 235 H.X. 82	My p,c and s, 1200/30 057° 14' N., 016° 00' W., (?134°) 8 knots. WITHERINGT N, Commodore and 8 ships in company, remainder split up by a storm and presumably in groups nearby with remaining escorts. Am detaching WITHERINGTON at dark 30th with orders to endeavour to locate remaining escorts and to refuel these only. Do not know fuel state of remaining escorts. It will be necessary for VETERAN to leave H.X. 82 to refuel at dark Saturday 2nd. Barometer 967 visibility 6 dry bulb 55 wet bulb 54 wind direction 190 force 5. (VETERAN 1400/30)

/Owing to....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

O.B. 235
H.X. 82- Contd.

Owing to D/F of U-Boat at 1511/30 in 58° 30' N., 18° 00' to 21° 00' W. on passing through 57° 28' N., 16° 40' W., O.B. 235 is to steer for 57° 00' N., 25° 00' W., where convoy is to disperse. (C. in C., W.A. 1627/30

W.N. 27

Your 1255 all crew saved. Search for survivors unnecessary. SOUTHERN FLOWER being sent to tow. (A.C.O.S 1415/30 to FOWEY)

W.N. 27 will remain under Lee of coast west of Dunnet Head for the night attempting passage of Pentland Firth at daylight. Request Dunnet Head Light from 0600. (FOWEY 1623/30)

?

Following received from R.A.F. Commodore starboard quarter from LA MALOUINE course and speed 195 5 following ships in company AENUMA numbers 42 43 52 53 and H.M.S. LINNET request instructions ends. Time of origin 1145. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1514/30)

O.B. 236
H.X. 82

Local escorts of O.B. 236 will be required to reinforce H.X. 82 a.m./2/11. Convoy is therefore to steer (route) (C. in C., W.A. 1705/30 to BROKE, MALCOLM, SARDONYX ARABIS, HELIOTROPE)

W.N. 28

My 1546/28 to FLEETWOOD only. Meet W.N. 28 code word MUTUAL due Cape Wrath 0030/1 and Duncansby Head 1030/1. (C. in C., Rosyth 1741/30 to FLEETWOOD)

E.N. 14

My portion at 2030 bearing approximately Cape Wrath 7 miles course 274° speed 7 knots bound south through Minches E.N. 14 scattered until the weather moderates gale and poor visibility ships od convoy steamship COSUELO FLORIAN DILIGENT. NASTURTION and remainder of convoy not seen. BLUEBELL searching off Skerries for Stragglers. (HIBISCUS 2030/30)

E.N. 15

E.N. 15 309 Buchan Ness 2000 speed made good to 6 knots. (BERKSHIRE 2025/30)

/O.B. 237.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys-Contd.

O.B. 237

Intend to sail ANTELOPE, ACHATES at 2315/31 with O.B. 237. (Capt D (12) 1705/30)

W.S. 4 A

Intend sailing Liverpool section of W.S. 4 A with ABOSSO and AKAROA escorted by HURRICANE and HARVESTER at 1300/1/11 speed of advance 13 knots to R.V. with Newport and Clyde Sections as in C. in C., W.A. 1537/28. DUCHESS OF RICHMOND will sail 1700/1/11 and will R.V. at Clyde Section R.V. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1745/30)

Cancel my 1248/29/10. Intend to sail SALOPIAN with Clyde portion of W.S. 4 A on 1/11 parting company with convoy in 50° 00' N., thence West of areas F 3 and G 3 to Area H 3. (F.O.C.N.P. 2220/30)

Sailing of Newport Section W.S. 4 A delayed 10 hours. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2315/30)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

CANADA

Admiralty's 1913/28 CANADA had sailed from Toulon before thsi reached me. I have informed French Admty. but French N.A. request that you give these route instructions to her when she passes Gibraltar on 1/11.
If she does not received any instructions she will route MASSILIA signalling her position to Admty. when in 55° 35' N., 7° 15' W., (N.A. Madrid 1202/30 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar)

French Trawlers etc.,

Numerous French trawlers and sailing vessels left St. Pierre between 23rd and 26th October probably for Casablanca. They should be sent to United Kingdom Ports. (F.O.C.N.A. 1723/30 to Ships etc., N.A.)

Passengers by air to Libreville

According to intercepted W/T message French Military Authorities commandeered a Sikorsky (F A O X E) to carry 6 passengers amd 1200 pounds material from Cotonou to Libreville on 16/10. A Colonel and a Captain were refused passage to Libreville on 26/10, the mail plane being fully booked as result of Naval requisition. (C. in C., S.A. 1855N/30)

Exchange of Prisoners of War

Your 1809/25. French N.A. informs me that he has no reply but that he knows intentions of French Govt. are to retain French Emissaries of General de Gaulle whome they regard as rebels.
I have asked him to repeat urgently subs ance of last para of your 1809/25 and have emphasized great importance of matter. (N.A.Madrid 1929/30)

STRASBOURG etc.

See C.G. Tangier's 1628/30 Addressed Admiral Gibraltar repeated F.O. 614/30 (F.O.C.N.A. 1854/30)

C.G. Tangier's 1638/30 and my 1854/30. Is passage of these ships to be interfered with or are they to be shadowed. All available ships are at short notice. (F.O.C.N.A. 1956/30 to Adty.)

Your 1956/30. If STRASBOURG, one or more cruisers or 4 or more destroyers pass through the Straits they should be shadowed from ahead and if they attempt to proceed to the northward they must be prevented after due warning.

/If they.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

STRASBOURG etc. Contd.

If they proceed to the southward they should not be interfered with and should not be shadowed except in the case of STRASBOURG. (1st. S.L. 2126/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

25. Your 2126/30. destroyer patrol has been established in vicinity of meridian Alboran. (F.O.C.N.A. 2334/30 to Adty.)

R.C. of Port Gentil & Libreville

My 2249/28. No trace of receipt in W.R. 4th reconnaissance of Port Gentil today showed PONCELET or similar submarine anchored off town. Submarine had awnings furled and fired on reconnaissance aircraft. At Libreville which was also visited BOURGAINVILLE did not open fire. (F.O.C.I.C.S. 2055/30 to C. in C., S.A.)

Aircraft Reconnaissance of Gibraltar

French reconnaissance aircraft flew over Rock 1220 today but was quickly driven off. (Gov. Gib. 3191/30, T.O.O. 2350/30)

North Atlantic

Gibraltar, Attack by One-Man Submarines

Commercial anchorages and norther entrance were attacked this morning by what appears to be 2 Italian one-man submarines or torpedoes. One Italian officer and one rating picked up. No damage. (F.O.C.N.A., 1246/30) Further details. One "torpedo" salved by Spaniards. (F.O.C.N.A. 2352/30)

Troops

Re disposal. Re Admty 0315/29 etc., (W.O. 86901/30)

Greek Troops

Greek authorities at Lisbon have been asked if there is any way of transporting Greek Troops from Spain back to Greece. (N.C.S.O.Lisbon, 1531/30 to Admty.)

Repatriation of French

Asking that French under age who took refuge in England at end of June may be repatriated. (N.A.Madrid 1900/30)

/ARK ROYAL.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

ARK ROYAL ARGUS "HURRY"	S.O. Force H 1950/30. See Mediterranean Volume.
Operation "White Collar"	My 2109/26. FEARLESS will not now accompany this force as she is damaged. (D.O.D.(H.) 2009/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)
KINGSTON SAPPHIRE Survivors, (torpedoed 5/10)	28 Officers and men of H.M.Trawler KINGSTON SAPPHIRE leave Huelva tonight by British ship for Gibraltar (N.A.Madrid 1948/30)

South Atlantic

CARNARVON CASTLE	My 1807/N/23. On arrival Takoradi to escort WESTERNLAND to Capetown by direct route. After fuelling Capetown to proceed to South America Division, A & W.I. in accordance R.A.S.A.D. 1445Z/25. (C. in C., S.A., 1109/30)
Convoys, WS 3 B WS 3 A, WS 3	Movements. Escort, DORSETSHIRE (N.O. i/c Simonstown 0840/30)
W.S. 3 B	Sailing telegram (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0845Z/30, N.C.S.O. Capetown 0921/30)
DUNDAS Overdue	Due Durban 28/10 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 0935/30)
Convoy S.L. 54	R.V. (position) (time) N.C.S.O. Freetown 1159/30)
BIBURY KOSMOS NATIA KILLORAN Overdue	The following ships are seriously overdue: BIBURY sailed Milford Haven 28/8 due Buenos Aires 25/9 and KOSMOS sailed Belgrade 12/9 for Curacao where she was expected about 10/10. The present assumptions are BIBURY should have been near position 500 miles westward Cape Verde Island about 15/9 and KOSMOS near position 500 miles North Pernambuco about 30/9. NATIA is likely to have been victim of attack in 001° N 032° W on the 8/10 reported by HIGHLAND PRINCESS and DEFOE. KOSMOS and NATIA all have met the same raider about dates and in position given. Finnish BARQUE KILLORAN left Buenos Aires 15/6 for Las Palmas and has not been heard of since. (C. in C., S.A. 1251N/30)

/Suspicious ship..

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Suspicious Ship Sighted 22/10 by ERRIA

Master of ex Danish ship ERRIA reports sighting at 1830 Z/22 on 015° 25' S., 000° 20' W., cargo ship in ballast steering 142° Italian appearance speed 3 knots when sighted Ship altered 8 points to starboard to evade him and increased speed.
Description not unlike ALCANTARA raider (description)
Ship cannot be accounted for here. Can you identify? (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1404/30 to S.O. (I) Capetown)

P.V's

No ship is to stream paravanes on leaving Freetown until westward of 013° 20' W
P.V's are to be hoisted in requirement by incoming ships before arriving at this Meridian.
These orders are applicable to all merchant ships as well as to men of war. (C. in C., S.A. 1615N/30)

Mediterranean

Italian Campaign Against Greece

Operation 31/10

By 2 Greek destroyers (N.A.Athens 1 54/30)

Greek Troops

Re transport from Spain. (see North Atlantic)

Mediterranean Fleet

Plans for next few days (C. in C., Med. 1307/30, 1315/30) See Mediterranean Volume.

CANADA

Your 1225/28. Information requested as to definite sailing date, speed and expected time of arrival of French hospital ship CANADA. (D.O.D. (H) to N.A. Madrid 1230/30)

Combined Operations

Your 2041/25, re block of words for use during combined operations. This is acceptable. Words in my 1055/22 may be used for any purpose you wish. (D.N.I. to C. in C., Med. 1101/30.)

/Assistance.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.10.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Assistance to Turkey

Message for Admiral Kelly. (1st S.L. 2220/30) See Mediterranean Volume.

2 M.V's

Air R.C. (? 0347 reported) 2 M.V'S 3000 tons stationary 10 miles off Ras Hibab 1600/30 (? Capt S. 1 to OSITIS 2350/30)

RORQUAL
PANDORA

Orders for returning to Malta. (V.A.Malta 0945/30)

Lubricants for Turkey

Your 1131/28. You may authorize oil companies in Egypt to supply as requisite. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1923/30 to C. in C., Med.)

New Aircraft

Your 1159/28. 2 arrived Takoradi on 28/10 in SANGARA. 2 arrived Freetown on 26/10 in HENRY STANLEY and 2 more in SWEDRU left Freetown 26/10. All personnel are divided between these 3 ships. 5 more aircraft were despatched but the 2 ships were damaged and had to return. 4 more now embarked in CONGONIAN sailed from U.K. 29/10.(D.N.A.D. 1348/30 to C. in C., Med,)

Exchange of Prisoners

Your 2133/20. A Ca inet decision was taken at the beginning of the war that there should be no exchange of prisoners whatsoever other than wounded under the provisions of the Geneva Convention. (Hd. of N.L. 2232/30 to C. in C., Med.)

MOST SECRET.

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

W.S.3. -Re. (C.in C. E.I. 1138/30).

B.N.8½ My 0914/22. Movements altered (C.in C. E.I. 1140 Z/30).

BRITANNIC. Left Suez 28/10 with families for evacuation to S.A. Details. (C.in C. M.E. Q.M.2/24060).

KIMBERLEY. My 1456/24 Para. 3. Result of trials. KIMBERLEY reports satisfactory up to 25 knots. Ship considers it inadvisable to exceed this speed except in cases of urgency. (C.in C. E.I. 1754/30).

America and West Indies.

Convoy S.C.10. FOLKESTONE sailed from Sydney 29/10 ocean escort S.C.10. (S.O.I. Halifax, 0157/30).

Escort for French Merchant Ships. Admty. 1658/14 to N.A. French ship SAN FRANCISCO left New York to join French ship WINNIPEG from New Orleans off Fire Island time of rendezvous 2130 G.M.T./30. Vessels proceeded in company 12 knots route by French 40° 38' N. 50° W. Great Circle 55° 35' N. 10° W. expected to arrive position 55° 35' N. 7° W. at 0830/G.M.T. 12/11. Approach route Liverpool issued by Admiralty through Naval Attache received by both vessels. (N.C.S.O. New York 1551/30).

MARGAREE survivors. PORT FAIRY arrived Bermuda 29/10 with 6 Officers and 28 Ratings survivors from MARGAREE. Enquiry is taking place now at Bermuda. PORT FAIRY will be delayed at Bermuda about 4 days for temporary repairs to make her seaworthy. (C.in C. A. W.I. 1702/29).

BISHOPDALE. My 1901/29. BISHOPDALE has been ordered to r.v. with you in 36° 30' S. 74° 00' W. at 1600Z/14/11. If unable to make this rendezvous she will proceed into Callao pass expected date of arrival at r.v. to me by Cable. Callao pass to PRINCE ROBERT. (C.in C. A. W.I. 1731/30 to PRINCE ROBERT).

PRINCE ROBERT.

BISHOPDALE. Cancel previous orders. Proceed forthwith to R.V. in 036° 30' S. 074° 00' W. at 1600 G.M.T./14/11. If unable to do this proceed into Callao and inform Navy Bermuda by telegram expected date of arrival at rendezvous. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1742/30).

/ A/C tender and planes...

MOST SECRET.

30.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Continued).

A/C tender and planes.

Washington 2400/30 to F.O. Recommend that U.S. proposal to send A/C tender and planes to St. Lucia should be adopted.
(C.in C. A. W.I. 1741/30 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

30.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

One German M.S. reported in 46.55 N., 06.15 W. at 0850 proceeding east. (V.A.S., 0928/30, to Submarines on Patrol, Area B).

USARAMO. Confirmed that this is the 10,000 ton German ship reported at Pasajes 28/10. (D.S. 422).

KULMERLAND. which left Kobe 9/10 has now been located in a Kobe shipyard transferred to Japanese flag and renamed TESYO MARU (D.S. 422).

BURGENLAND. Rumoured she is soon to be transferred to Japanese flag (D.S. 422).

STORMARN. STORMARN with cargo of iron ore is preparing to sail on or about 1/11. Probable destination Bayonne. (Bilbao 1825/30).

BRAKE
NORD ATLANTIC
LA PLATA. My 1133/25. Transfer of 200 tons of lubricating oil from BRAKE to NORD ATLANTIC complete. LA PLATA and BRAKE taking provisions. (Actg. Consul, Vigo 1906/30.)

SESOSTRIS Curacao 1844/30 stated K.N.S.M. Agent Puerto Cabello reports SESOSTRIS now ready for sea steam up. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica, 2017/30).

MOST SECRET.

30.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

LISBON. British, 1984 tons. SSSS, near Aberdeen, torpedoed, requires immediate assistance. (Wick, 0527/30) LISBON ashore near Stonehaven (Scapa W/T, 0618/30) See also Casualties and Defects.

BALZAC. British, 5372 tons. Received at 1239 G.M.T. SSSS 55.37 N., 13.26 W., BALZAC shelled 1240/30. (Port Patrick Radio, no T.O.O./30). S/M distress, shelled, 55.37 N., 13.26 W. (Scapa W/T, 1243/30) BALZAC's SSSS of 1142/30 from Land's End Radio. If in vicinity and fuel permits, attack submarine. (C.in C. W.A. 1300/30).

Met BALZAC not hit in 055° 38' N. 012° 22'W. at 1800 torpedo exploded 50 yards on quarter, submarine not sighted. HIGHLANDER proceeded 1700 to join Commodore S.C.8 and 6 ships whom I passed in position 055° 12'N. 012° 30' West at 1300/30 course 080° 7 knots escorted by CLARKIA and ?MAN O WAR. HIGHLAMDER intended leaving convoy if further support arrived or on reaching 007° W. My E.T.A. Clyde 0900/31. (HARVESTER 1815/30).

USKBRIDGE (torpedoed 17/10) Ref. C.in C. A.W.I. 1053/28. Master of TOPDALSFJORD also reports NEVA as showing lights on port side visible at least 5 miles for at least 4 hours before first attack. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, N.S. 0950/30).

BALTROVER. British, 4916 tons. Following has been read. SSSS. 54° 22' N. 23° 47 W. BALTROVER. Submarine now about to open fire. Course 050 speed 10 knots firing at Submarine. (Portsmouth W/T 1750/30, Nore W/T 1730/30).

Following received from Port Patrick Radio:- Navy Charge Greenock V Coast Guard Port Patrick. Intercept at 1806 G.M.T. de Valencia Radio. Corrected position of 1800 G.M.T. 54.30 N. 23.26 W. BALTROVER course 050 speed 11 knots. (Greenock 1804/30 Scapa Base Ship 1907/30).

54 22 N 23 47 W
BALTROVER submarine sighted.
(Scapa Base ship T.O.R. 1828)

54° 22 N 23° 47 W BALTROVER course 050 speed 10 knots diring at submarine.
(Scapa Base Ship 1849/30).

BALTROVER sighted Submarine in 054° 22' N. 023° 47' W. at 1830.
(C.in C. W.A. 1857/30 to PRETORIA CASTLE, CLYDE).

/ H.X. 72. .....

MOST SECRET.

30.10.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

H.X.72.

Admiralty 2153/12 R.A.3 B.S. re darkening of ships it is noted that the C.O. of one of the escorts of HX 72 has reported that matches, cigarettes and open doors were visible all round from astern. This convoy subsequently incurred a number of casualties. It is requested that this may be promulgated to authorities at assembly ports at Home and overseas.
(C.in C. W.A. 2005/30 to Adty.)

Submarines Reported.

1105. D/F, probable U/B, 56.30 N., 14° to 17° W. (D.D.I.C. 1142/30).

1343. A.F. Message 55.37 N., 13.26 W. (D.D.I.C. 1517/30) (BALZAC shelled).

1511. D.F., probable U/B, 58° to 58.30 N., 18° to 21° W. (D.D.I.C. 1556/30).

1855. By D.F. very approx. position 44° 40' N. 2° W. (V.A.(S) 2031/30).

Estimated U-boat dispositions.

Italian - No news.
German - 1 may enter Lorient tonight.
1 may have been in 53 degs 25' N. 19 degs 30' W. at 1109/29.
2 are probably in area 58 degs to 60 degs N. and W. of 17 degs W.
1 was in 56 degs N. 10 degs 35' W. at 1055/29.
1 was in about 56 degs 30' N. between 14 degs and 17 degs W. at 1105/30.
1 may possibly reach N.W. Approaches today from the North.
(D.D.I.C. 1213/30)

Submarines Attacked.

By HARVESTER (see BALZAC) U.237 sunk by HIGHLANDER.

Attacked doubtful contact with one depth charge at 1820/30 in 56.50 N., 15.25 W. About one square mile of surface covered with oil fuel after attack but contact not regained. Considered non-sub. (VERITY, 1205/31).

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.10.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Force Under H.C. 1.

SOUTHAMPTON is escorting the Finnish BORE X intercepted 30/10 east of Iceland, towards Kirkwall. The remaining units of the force are returning from the search for suspected raider. AUSTRALIA was ordered to return on 29/10.

FORMIDABLE

FORMIDABLE (new Aircraft Carrier) commissioned today at Belfast.

CELTE

French CELTE was intercepted at 0009/31 by ships of the Northern Patrol and was ordered to Greenock in detention. The ship was flying a yellow triangular flag under her ensign.

Western Patrol

An additional object of the Western Patrol is now to provide reconnaissance against possible enemy attempt to capture the Azores.

Operations "White Collar" "Hurry"

ARK ROYAL, GLASGOW, DUNCAN, ISIS and FOXHOUND sailed from the Clyde today.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Heavy attacks were made last night on Antwerp and Flushing, with success. Emden was also attacked.
Two E-Boats were attacked this afternoon off the Somme Estuary and a near miss obtained.

Coastal Command

Two of 3 Hudsons on offensive reconnaissance of the Norwegian coast from Skudesness Fiord to Lister Light bombed a 3000 ton merchant vessel 6 miles north of Lister, at about 1240 today, scoring one direct hit amidships.

A/S Patrols

The Air Ministry have ordered certain patrols to be instituted with the object of detecting and destroying U-Boats on passage off the Irish Coast.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.10.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

SS STARSTONE in convoy OB 238 was bombed and damaged this morning in the Atlantic 200 miles west of Ireland. She is proceeding to the Clyde.

SS BALTRADER in Convoy W.N. 26 was machine gunned at noon today off Rattray Head. At 1430 she fired 2 rounds at an aircraft with no marks visible, approaching her, and she also sent out S.O.S. The aircraft sheered off landwards and showed British markings.

Mining

Minelaying last night by enemy aircraft is suspected off North Foreland, Thames Estuary and Harwich.

Explosions occurred today near PRIMROSE 20 miles N. of Tory I. and near WALLACE in Firth of Forth. Explosions were seen in mid air and on surface of the water, last night, in the Thames Estuary, and off Plymouth this morning. One mine was detonated off Liverpool

M.T.B. 22
M.T.B. 16
Mined

M.T.B. 22 was mined this morning in the Thames Estuary, and was damaged. M.T.B. 16 was mined about an hour later, in the Thames Estuary, and sank early this afternoon off Harwich after being taken in tow by M.T.B. 31.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.10.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

French Destroyers at Sea

At 0610 today GRIFFIN was shadowing 5 destroyers 70 miles S.E. of Almina Point, steering westward. S.O.Force H, in RENOWN with BARHAM and 4 destroyers left Gibraltar at 0900 to investigate, 5 more destroyers proceeding later in the day to join Force H.

Five French Destroyers passed Gibraltar today at 1315 from East to West.

CUBA Intercepted

MORETON BAY this afternoon intercepted the French CUBA bound from Martinique to Casablanca, but steering a course as if for Dakar, about 700 miles west of Canary Is. There are about 1216 sailors on board.

Submarines at Dakar

It is reported that 4 French submarines and a tanker with diesel oil arrived at Dakar 28/10. DRAGON, due at Bathurst is making further enquiries. C. in C., S.A. has established air and naval patrol to southward of Freetown, but the vessels may already have passed.

Mediterranean

COVENTRY, CALCUTTA, PROTECTOR, FAREHAM, FIONA, CHAKLA and 4 destroyers with two tankers are due at Suda Bay p.m. today, to establish a fuelling base. AJAX with a battalion of York and Lancaster Regt. is due tomorrow.

East Indies

Perrim was bombed today, without damage.

CHAKDINA on Perrim patrol was ineffectively bombed this morning.

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Western Patrol. Additional object of Western Patrol is now to provide R/C against possible Enemy attempt to capture Azores (F.O.C. N.P. 1500/31 to Western Patrol).

Shetlands. Suggest that separation of Orkneys from Shetlands for administration and operational purposes has noticeably reduced delay and should be continued. (F.O.C.S. 2145/31 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 0200/31. (D.C. 0242/31). At 1400/31 (D.C. 1405/31).

Movements.

COMORIN. To enter Scapa at first light today and anchor to await onward Escort. (A.C.O.S. 0040/31 to COMORIN). You are routed as follows (F.O.C.O.S. 1132/31 to COMORIN).

Operations "White Collar", "Hurry". Pass to 1515. Join DUNCAN by 0830. (ARK ROYAL 0456/31 to N.O.I.C. Glasgow). Sailed ARK ROYAL, GLASGOW, DUNCAN, ISIS, and FOXHOUND, with s.s. PASTEUR in company, routed as by C.in C. W.A. 1710/27. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1410/31 to Adty.).
3 Destroyers from Nore Command to arrive Clyde by P.M./3 to escort ARGUS clear of U-Boat zone and to be under orders of C.in C. W.A. (V.C.N.S. 2156/31 to C.in C. Nore.
ARGUS to be sailed from Clyde for Gibraltar on 4/11 escorted through U-Boat zone by Destroyers detailed by C.in C. W.A. C.in C. Portsmouth requested to detail either DESPATCH or DUNEDIN to act as Ocean Escort and to arrive Clyde by P.M./3. Cruiser detailed will join Force H temporarily and escort ARGUS to U.K. on completion of Operation HURRY.
C.in C. W.A. requested to issue necessary instructions. (V.C.N.S. 2231/31).
VENOMOUS, VESPER, and WINDSOR to sail for Clyde at 0830/1 to arrive P.M./3 if possible. (C.in C. Nore 2340/31 to D.21).
Intend sail BERWICK at 1100/1 as by 2058/29.
C.in C. W.A. requested arrange Air Escort and Fighter protection. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1851/31 to C.in C. W.A.).

Harwich M.T.B's. Your 1013/31 (?1033/31 intended) All remaining M.T.B's are to be recalled to Harwich and are to remain there for the present. (C.in C. Nore 1111/31 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.).

/ Nore Command.

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued).

Nore Command.	Movements to 1200/1. (C.in C. Nore 1200/31)
AGAMEMNON.	ETA. Port ZA. 0830/1. (AGAMEMNON 1515/31)
Portsmouth.	Night Movements. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1523/31)
Orkneys.	Positions at 2000/31. (A.C.O.S. 1531/31).
Rosyth.	Movements for Night 31/1. (C.in C. Rosyth 1641/31 and 2350/31).
ARROW.	ETA. 2230. AMAZON in company. (ARROW 1955/31 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
NIGERIA.	Request you sail for Plymouth tomorrow to pass Penlee Point at 1700. (C.in C. W.A. 2201/31 to C.S.10).
CHALLENGER, CURACOA, DIDO, KEPPEL	ETA. Scapa. CHALLENGER 2330, CURACOA 2345, DIDO and KEPPEL 0040. (A.C.O.S. 2216/31).

Operations.

Suspicious Vessel.	Have not received 1445/30 from F.O.C.N.P. No details of R/V. Proceeding Skopen Fiord. Position 61° 42' N. 8° 24' W. Course 072° speed 8 knots. (NORTHERN SKY 0400/31 to SOUTHAMPTON).
Operation LUCID	NIGER, SPEEDWELL, SELKIRK to join Force B. SUTTON, GOSSAMER, ELGIN to join Force A. (C.in C. Nore 1026/31 to D.21, etc.). W/T watch as follows on leaving Sheerness (C.in C. Nore 1310/31). Owing to Mine Casualties and Weather, not now possible for M.T.B's and M.L's to be ready for Operation tomorrow. Operation therefore postponed. It will be carried out on Night 2/3 if Dover Minefield sufficiently cleared. (C.in C. Nore 2058/31 to Adty.)
VANOC. VOLUNTEER.	Patrol Eastwards tonight as cover for Convoy C.F.15. They may proceed Southward, keeping clear of S/M Areas W2 and S.3. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1313/31 to Adty.)
Western Patrol.	DERBYSHIRE and CILICIA take Area F.2. and G.2 respectively from 2000/2. SALOPIAN take Area F.1 on arrival. Territorial Waters should not be entered or presence made more conspicuous than necessary. (F.O.C.N.P. 1500/31 to Western Patrol 22).

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

CACHALOT)
TAKU)
CLYDE)
ROSEMARY)

Movements 2 to 4/11. (Capt. S.2. 1024/31)

0·24.

At 0900/29 unsuccessfully attacked M/V. 1200 tons off Holmengraa. (0.24 1301/31 to S.9.)

H.34.)
B.1.)

Intend sail H.34 from Rothesay at 1100/3 escorted by BREDA for Tobermory. ETA. Tobermory 0900/4. WESTERN ISLES requested sail B.1. for Rothesay escorted by BREDA on arrival to carry out operation in W.S. 1716/30. (Capt. S.7. 1436/31 to C.in C. W.A.).

Bombing.

My 1126/2. Havre, Lorient, Bordeaux. (F.O.S. 1534/31 to S/M's Area B).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0700/1. (V.A.S. 1639/31).

British Air Activity.

German Transport sunk.

Swedish press reports sinking off Sogne Fiord 26/10 of a German transport of about 2500 tons as result of air attack. (Air Min. D.S.)

Nore.

No air R/C. (C.in C. Nore 0519/31 to Adty.)

Proposed occasional Fighter A/C at Sumburgh.

Recently the visits to Shetland of enemy aircraft have been increasing in frequency and this and their behaviour make it clear they have knowledge that our Fighters have left. It is suggested that it might be worth considering that occasionally and for a few days at a time a Fighter or two should be sent to Sumburgh to take advantage of this. (F.O.C. 0910/31 to Adty.)

S.A. 1 E.

Postponed owing to weather (C.in C. Rosyth 0950/31).

S.A. 2 N.

Cancelled. No A/C available. (C.in C. Rosyth 0950/31).

Plymouth Balloon Barrage.

C.in C. W.A. 1102/29. Concur proposals close hauling water borne sites to 300 feet in emergency. Naval authorities must accept possibility of frequent balloon losses which may not be quickly replaceable in unfavourable weather and with difficulties of gas supply. Consider re-siting of sites 43 and 44 on land

/ involving .....

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Continued).

Plymouth Balloon Barrage (contd.)	involving move 500 to 600 yards Eastward does not materially affect protection of anchorage and urge re-consideration by local authorities in order to minimise possible losses. (H.Q. Balloon Command 1050/31 to Air Ministry).
	Balloon Command's 1050/31. Admiralty accept possibility of loss of balloons and request your concurrence to C.in C. Western Approaches' proposals contained in his message 1102/29. Question of re-siting of sites 43 and 44 to be taken up subsequently by local authorities as suggested by Balloon Command. (D. of L.D. 1316/31 to Air Ministry).
	Arrangements agree locally for the close-hauling of water borne sites to 300 feet in emergency are confirmed and should be carried out. Local authorities should reconsider the suggestion contained in my A.438/26/10 paragraph 2(B) regarding sites 43 and 44. (Air Ministry 1835/31 to Air Commands).
Bombing of Enemy Coastal Batteries.	Request action on C.in C. Nore's 1702/30. (Air Ministry 1051/31 to Bomber Command).
	Nore 1702/30. Available aircraft of Nos. 53 and 59 Squadrons to bomb coastal battery positions between Calais and Ambleteuse between 0415/0545 hours Friday 1st November during passage of convoy C.E.15 through Straits of Dover. (H.Q.C.C. 1255/31 to 16 Group).
	Action requested in C.in C. Nore's 1702/30 is being taken by Coastal Command. (Air Ministry 1515/31 to Bomber Command).
Plymouth. Proposed transfer of 4 Balloon Sites.	C.in C. W.A. 1856/30. Concur. Request your very early consideration and concurrence. (D. of L.D. 1109/31 to Fighter Command).
Hatston. Proposed Withdrawal of A/C.	Adty's 1347/30. Consider retention of these 2 Squadrons at Hatston is necessary. Reasons. (A.C.O.S. 1216/31 to C.in C.H.F.)
Belfast. Orders to Ships to fire on A/C.	If instructions in F.O. Signal A.269/30/10 have been given by F.O.I.C. Belfast, request they be cancelled as contrary to my A.905/31/7. (Air Ministry 1323/31 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Continued)

Rosyth A/A Defences. — Your 009/25. Arrangements already made meet your requirements. As from 1200/23/10 all aircraft are routed so as to avoid the Rosyth defended area. No.13 group controller has been temporarily authorised as from 1200/23/10 to permit barrage fire to be opened against raids which appear likely to threaten the vital area. (Air Ministry 1400/31 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

STARSTONE. — British, 5702 tons. Bombed in 54° 11' N. 15° 39' W. (Valentia Radio 0906/31) Proceed to assist. (C.in C. W.A. 1037/31 to ALCANTARA) Burning in forehold (STARSTONE. Received 1040/31). Have found STARTSTONE in 53° 11' N. 15° 35' W. She reports five under control and can proceed to Clyde at 5 knots. Requires Tug or Trawler. 1 killed, several injured. (ALCANTARA 1248/31 to C.in C. W.A.)

B.C.1. — One A/C shadowing at 59° 29' N. 4° 10' W. (B.C.1. 0950/31) Shadower gone. (F.O.C. 1st B.S. 0959/31 to Adty.)

BALTRADER. — British, 1699 tons. Gunned off Rattray Head. (Wick Radio 1100/31). Bombed. (Scapa Base Ship 1430/31) Bombed off N.W. Ireland 0800/24. Gunned 5' S.W. of Rattray Head 1200/31. Details. (C.in C. Rosyth 2311/1 to Adty.)

ARCTIC TRAPPER. — (Damaged by near Miss 29/10) My 1921/29. Refloated and brought into Dover. (V.A. Dover 0951/31 to Adty.)

Mining.

Sheerness. — Red Mine detonated at 0345 in 080° East Oaze L.V. 1.3 miles. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 0501/31 to Adty.)

Approaches to Rosyth. — Cancel my 1301/26 and my 0810/29. (C.in C. Rosyth 1021/31).

Thames Estuary. — Following explosions seen during night 30-31 October. 1935 heavy explosion in mid-air in about mid-shingles buoy. 2125 3 large explosions on surface of water bearing 050 degrees from Edinburgh Channels buoy. distant 2227 flash followed by heavy explosion distant on approximate bearing 330 degrees from Edinburgh Channels buoy. 0215 a line of about 15 flashes on surface water bearing 080 degrees from Edinburgh Channels buoy distant. (S.O.T.L.D.F. 1025/31 to C.in C. Nore).

/ M.T.B.22. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued).

M.T.B.22. — Mined in 1½ miles South of Middle Gunfleet Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1033/31 to Adty.)

Proposed Mining of Little Sole and La Chapelle Banks. — Your 1631/30. No objection is seen to proposals in (A) and (B) of paragraph 3 but I am strongly opposed to the laying of (C) as this would materially restrict the operations of our own submarines. I have no objection to additional mines being laid west of 07 degs. 30' W. (V.A.S. 1224/31 to Adty.)

Your 1631/30 para.3. Concur provided own submarine patrols are not interfered with. A submarine patrol off Brest is of more value than the field proposed in (C).

Surface escort and air protection will be required as the whole passage cannot be made in the dark. (C.in C. W.A.2103/31 to Adty.)

M.T.B.16. — Sunk. Crew in GOSSAMER. (ST.MELLONS 1410/31 to O.I.C. Harwich).

B.S.44. — Operation postponed 24 hours on account of weather (TEVIOT BANK 1520/31)

S.N.44. — Cancel my 1045/30 (R.A.M.L. 1627/31 to C.in C. W.A.) As Destroyers delayed by weather, presume you will delay S.N.44. Hoped to sail Destroyers tomorrow. (C.in C. W.A. 2003/31 to R.A.M.L.)

Plymouth. — Since my 1748/25 two red mines detonated by double L. 0840/31 50° 16' 30" N. 04° 10' 30" W., 0902/31 212° 5.5 cables from breakwater light. Also three spontaneous explosions 1656/30 215 degrees breakwater fort 1.5 miles, 1708/30 approximately 128 degrees 9 cables, 1427/31 100 degrees 2 cables Knap buoy. (C.in C. W.A. 1646/31 to Adty.)

Barry. / Barry Roads. — Will be open from 0800/1. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1846/31).

Harwich / Fleet Sweepers — Adty's 2347/28. Not now expected that reinforcement will be required unless further Minelaying takes place. (C.in C. Nore 1919/31 to C.in C. Rosyth) Cancel my 2347/28. (D.M.S.2140/31).

Liverpool. — LL sweeps detonated Mine in sweep at 120° Bar Light Vessel 2.15 miles. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2050/31 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest, Lorient, St. Nazaire, Bordeaux. — Latest R/C. (V.A.S. 1634/31).

Area C.1 (Lister) — WILK'S report 13 to 23/10. (V.A.S.1727/31 to STURGEON).

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys.

Shipping.

F.N. and F.S.

Following from F.O. Harwich. Intend to employ "Flower" class corvettes as additional escort for F.N. and F.S. convoys commencing tomorrow Friday. (C.in C. Rosyth 2357/31).

My 1103/26. Cancel F.S.26. F.S.27 will be fast and F.S.28 slow (C.in C. Rosyth 2211/31).

F.N. 24.

Delayed 24 hours (C.in C. Nore 2008/31).

F.S.

My 1103/26. Cancel F.S.26. F.S.27 will be fast, F.S.28 slow. (C.in C. Rosyth 2211/31).

E.N. 16.

Cancelled. (C.in C. Rosyth 1141/31).

E.N. 17.

Will include ships detailed for E.N.16. (C.in C. Rosyth 1141/31).

E.N.17.
W.N.29.
W.N.30.

WOLSEY and LOWESTOFT are to sail at 1630 tomorrow for Methil subsequently sailing as A.A. cover for E.N. 17 at 0600/2. WOLSEY is to part company as necessary to rendezvous with W.N. 29, close escort NORTHERN SPRAY and Pentland Firth due Duncansby Head about 1000/3 and is to provide A.A. cover to Methil. LOWESTOFT is to transfer to W.N.30 on meeting and is then to provide A.A. cover for W.N. 30 to Methil. Code word, E.N. 17, MIGHT, W.N. 29 MUSTER, W.N. 30 CHITTY. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2245/31).

F.S. 23.

23 position at 0200/31. (WATCHMAN, 0130/31)

F.S. 24.

FS 24 anticipate sailing 6 from Tyne 6 from Middlesbrough. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1712/31 to LONDONDERRY, VIVIEN).

H.X. 81 B.

Arriving position 053° 48' N. 005° 08' W. at 1200/1. N.O.I.C. Holyhead pass to Trawler ARSENAL. (ABERDEEN, 2130/31).

H.X. 82.

Amended R/V and route, then to split in 56° 00' N. 08° 00' W. (C.in C. W.A. 1741/31 to VETERAN, WITHERINGTON, CHELSEA, etc.)

O.B. 235.

My position, course and speed at 1200/31. Have been unable to locate any stragglers of O.B. 235. Am proceeding to Londonderry to fuel. (VERITY 1205/31 to C.in C. W.A.)

O.B.O. 237.

Expect to sail O.B.O 237 0400/1 H.M. Tugs LADY MADELINE, NORWICH CITY, 6 ships R/V with O.B. 237 at 1300/1. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1630/31)

/ 00. 45. .....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued)

O.G. 45. H.M.T. HAARLEM and ERIN unable to sail with O.G. 45 yesterday owing defects. Expect to complete in 48 hours. Next O.G. conference 19/11. Request instructions. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1255/31 to C.in C. W.A.)

S.L. 51. A/C report received from Aldergrove from AMAZON. Joined ARROW and 26 ships at 0700/31 in position 54° 40' N. 09° 00' W. T.O.O. 0925/31. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1615/31).

Your 1723/31 position in my 1248/31 (position of STARSTONE) should read 054° 11' N. 015° 35' W. (ALCANTARA, 1742/31 to C.in C. W.A.).

W.N. 27. Convoy W.N. 27 is sheltering west of Dunnet Head and attempting passage of Pentland Firth at daylight. Provide A/A cover to Rattray Head then return to Scapa. (F.O. (D) H.F., 0445/31, to CURACOA).

Am proceeding with 7 ships of W.N.27. Consider remainder are sheltering well astern. (FOWEY, 0928/31, to A.C.O.S.)

Following received from CURACOA. FOWEY with seven small ships of W.N.27 now proceeding. FOWEY states remainder are sheltering somewhere between Clyde and Pentland Firth. As convoy should reach Rattray Head after dark intend leaving it at dark and returning to Scapa. 0931. (A.C.O.S. 1335/31 to Admty.)

W.N.O.29. Expect to sail W.N.O.29 code word LIMITED 0800/1, H.M. Trawler WOLVES, 4 ships routed through Firth of Lorne to R.V. with MUSTER (position) at 1630/1. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1635/31).

AADA. Your 2219/30. Lloyd's register shows draught of AADA as nearly 25 feet but maximum depth alongside Thorshaven is 22 feet. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1647/31 to Admty.)

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA ANTONIA. 2 destroyers are to meet LETITIA with EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA and ANTONIA at dawn 2/11 and escort them to Clyde. (C.in C. H.F. 1748/31 to R.A.(D) H.F.)

/ Convoys Crossing 10° W. .....

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued)

Convoys Crossing 10° W.

Your 1950/30 it is intended to send a daily signal to C.in C. Western Approaches repeating to H.Q. Coastal Command and H.Q. Fighter Command forecasting 48 hours ahead what ships are expected to cross 10° West indicating at the same time their respective latitudes. Admty. 1340/39 will not be fully operative until middle November as ships now on passage will not have received these instructions. (D.T.D. 1509/31 to C.in C. W.A.).

Troop Convoys W.S.4A

F.O. i/c Cardiff's 2315/30. Liverpool and Clyde Sections of W.S.4A are to sail as originally ordered. F.O.i/c Milford Haven is to arrange new R/V for GARLAND to join Newport Section which has time to catch up the main body at the R/V given in my 1545/28. (C.in C. W.A. 1101/31).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

GRIFFIN
Shadowing
5 Destroyers

0610/31. GRIFFIN shadowing 5 unknown vessels in 70° Almina Point 70, course 270°. Ships bruning navigation lights. (F.O.C.N.A. 0712/31) My 0712. 5 destroyers (F.O.C.N.A's 0712. In view of Consul General Tangier's 1900/30, Force H including BARHAM and 9 destroyers proceeding westward at 0830. (S.O. Force H., 0753/31)

If French destroyers proceed to Casablanca and if air reconnaissance indicates no movement of French ships now at Casablanca intend returning to Gibraltar with Force H. (V.A.H., to Admty, 0914/31)
Gibraltar 1315/31. French destroyers BRESTOIS BORDELAIS, SIMOUN, TEMPETE, L'ALCYON passed from east to west (S.O.I., Gib., 1435/31) Return to Gibraltar after dark if French ships still proceeding to Casablanca. (S.O.Force H 1801/31 to GRIFFIN) F.O.C.N.A. 0712/31. F.O. Force H. in RENOWN, BARHAM, FORTUNE, FIREDRAKE, FURY, GREYHOUND sailed 0900/31 (S.O.I., Gribraltar, 1122/31) My 1122/31. ENCOUNTER, FORESTER, GALLANT, WISHART passed 1200, GRIFFIN passed westbound 1300 all to join Force H. (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1632/31)

CANADA

My 1913/28. CANADA sailed from Toulon without receiving route. She is due Straits of Gibraltar 1/11 and should be given route as in my 1913/28. Admty. should be informed of her expected time of arrival at 52.30 N., 14.00 W. (D.O.D. (H) to F.O.C.N.A. 1238/31)

Casablanca

Please see Consul-Gen. Tangier 1900/30 to F.O. No 616 (F.O.C.N.A. to Admty., 2336/30 recd. 0106/31). Refers to reports French ships in Casablanca may sail at any time.

JEAN BART

Please see Consu-Gen. Tangier No 623 to K. (F.O.C.N.A. 1801/31 to Admty). Refers to report preparations being made to take JEAN BART from Casablanca to Toulon.

CUBA
intercepted by
MORETON BAY

Have intercepted French ship CUBA from Martinique to Casablanca with troops on board. Request instructions. When intercepted course was set for about Dakar. (MORETON BAY to C. in C., S.A., 1625/31) Reported to Admty. and asking what action should be taken. (C. in C., S.A. 1817/31, 1942/31)

Your 1625/31.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

CUBA
Intercepted by
MORETON BAY, Contd.

Your 1625/31. Report your position and if colonial or white troops and any other details available. Ship to be told not to use W/T. (C.in C., S.A. to MORETON BAY, 1835/31)
Your 1625/31. Report your position and keep touch with CUBA. (D.C., 1046/31 to MORETON BAY)

Your 1817/31. MORETON BAY is to ascertain by boarding if practical and report:-
Number of troops specifying destination and whether they are:- (a) White or Black, (b) Reservists, (c) For repatriation.
2. Whether there is any appreciable cargo on board. If so what. Rumour has it that there may be gold on board.
If cargo is appreciable vessel is to be taken to Freetown keeping 200 miles clear of Dakar.
If no cargo or very little vessel is to be shadowed and further instructions will be sent.
If superior French surface forces or French Submarines are met vessel is to be released.
DRAGON if available might be employed.
(D.O.D. (F) 2302/31 to C. in C. S.A.)

Your 2301/31. DRAGON has not sufficient fuel to reach MORETON BAY's position and return to Freetown or Gibraltar. (C. in C., S.A., 2323/31, to Admty.)

Your 2311/31. CUBA first sighted 1310 over horizon in position 026° 53' N., 029° 36' W course Southeast, intercepted 1430 still on same course. Boarded 1500. Has on board 1216 sailors and 17 invalid soldiers all white and 21 officers.
Cargo manifest about 4000 tone rice and Soya beans. Captain uncommunicative, stated personnel going home via Casablanca, when questioned about course being steered produced log showing course north 70 east. No specie book produced. Situation now 025° 36' N., 029° 26' W., 166° 10. CUBA in company.
(MORETON BAY, 2230N/31, to Admty.)

/Dakar....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

Dakar, French Submarines

Report received from Commander Gijon this morning as follows (begins) French officer who crossed frontier from Dakar today states that 4 French submarines slightly smaller than SURCOUF type with depot ship arrived at Dakar 28/10. Depot ship and one submarine left immediately. Direction S.S.E. with object of refuelling submarines, numbers and nationality unknown. T.O.O. 2315/30. (Ends) DRAGON arriving Bathurst today is making further enquiries. Have established air and naval patrol to southward of Freetown with small forces available but if information correct vessels may have passed. (C. in C., S.A. to C.S. 1.) 1151N/31, Informing DEVONSHIRE, DELHI and PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, (C.S.I. 1849/31)

French Troops

Your 1942/29 re French transport sighted off Alicante, first paragraph seems to conflict with you 0816/24, French troops reported going overland, which appears to be reliable information. (C. in C., S.A. 1155N/31 to Admty.)

State of DUNKERQUE JEAN BART

Your 2111/30, Although DUNKERQUE has been refloated and work is proceeding from her space, she would not be ready for sea much less to go into a fight for many months. (B.2)
JEAN BART can steam at 20 knots but could not enter a fight with any chance of success Only one turret of 380 millimetres is in action.
She has no central firing point and carries spare guns which are not ordinarily part of her proper equipment. (B.2.)
(N.I.D. paraphrase of a signal from Consul-General, Tangier, timed 2030/31)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

ARGUS — Your 1950/30. Endeavour made to sail ARGUS with ARK ROYAL but due to various causes it was not found possible. (D.O.D. (F) to F.O.Force H., 0015/31)

MIRROR — My 1154/14. In view of Air Ministry's X 84 of 16/10 to 200 Group Gibraltar intend MIRROR proceed to either Freetown or U.K. with R.A.F. personnel on accordance with Air Ministry's Or 200 Group ultimate decision. Balance of crew for MIRROR can be provided from an R.A.F. Boat crew etc. (F.O.C.N.A. 1620/31)

SHEFFIELD — Admty. 2147/30 (when to be withdrawn from Azores Patrol)Reply. (S.O. Force H, to F.O.C.N.P., 0836/31)

South Atlantic

GUNNY Overdue — Overdue shipping. GUNNY due Capetown 27/10 from Rio de Janeiro not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 0945/B/31)

Unknown Ship sighted by ERRIA — Your 1404/30, report of master of ex-Danish ship ERRIA on unknown ship. Vessel cannot be identified here. (S.O.I. Capetown, to S.O.I. Freetown, 1255/B/31)

A.M.C. Exchanges — D.O.D. (F) 1426/31, see America & West Indies.

ESCOLAND Intercepted. release. — Your 1019/28. Spanish ship ESCOLAND intercepted by ESPERANCE BAY. Have you any information about this ship? (S.O.I., Freetown to S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1311/31) Your 1311. Nothing on this voyage. In June last when bound from Fernando Po to a Spanish or Italian port she should have been brought into Gibraltar but was not intercepted. (S.O.I. Gib. 1716/31)
Your 1955/31 (not to Admty.) Ship is to be released. (C. in C., S.A., to ESPERANCE BAY, 2305 M/31)

/Raider Report....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Raider Report	Suggestion from intercepted W/T that an enemy surface raider might have been on great circly Ascension Azores at 1915/28 (c. in C., S.A. to ROYAL SOVEREIGN, MORETON BAY, ARAWA, 2003N/31)
Convoy W.S. 3. CARTHAGE DORSETSHIRE	Your 0756/30 para 2. Convoy W.S. 3 C will leave Capetown at 1000/1 and xpect to pass through position (a) of your 0810/28 para 1 (not to COLOMBO) at 0600/4 and thence along route of W.S. 3. Time and position at which CARTHAGE leaves W.S. 3 A after making contact DORSETSHIRE and W.S. 3 B and at present can be estimated only very approximately. Therefore request you will issue instructions for CARTHAGE to contact W.S. 3. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1904Z/31 to C. in C. E.I)
W.S. 3 A W.S. 3 B	Sailed 29/10 and 30/10 respectively. List. (SSTO Capetown, 1639 B/31)

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Italian Campaign Against Greece.

Suda Bay. COVENTRY, CALCUTTA, PROTECTOR, FAREHAM, FIONA, CHAKLA and 4 destroyers with tankers OLNA and BRAMBLELEAF should arrive Suda Bay p.m. today to establish fuelling base. AJAX with Yorks and Lancaster regiment on board should arrive Suda Bay a.m. tomorrow Friday. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 0853/31).

British Troops. My 0853. Following troops held in readiness for embarkation for Crete. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 0856/31).

Minelaying. Following from N.A. Your 1652/29. Greek Government informed of areas dangerous to shipping owing to mines as specified in Admty. telegram No. 140 of 10/6. Greeks informed that no mines will be laid in these areas without previous consultation. (Sir M. Palaajet, Athens, 2000/30, Received in F.O. 1310/31).

Greek Troops in Spain. Following from N.C.S.O. Lisbon. Greek authorities at Lisbon ask if there is any way of transporting Greek troops from Spain back to Greece. 1531/30. (D.O.D.(F) to F.O.C.N.A. 2025/31).

Your 1531/30, not to F.O.C.N.A. How many are there? Could they cross frontier to Gibraltar? When could they be collected at Lisbon? (D.O.D.(F) to N.C.S.O. Lisbon 2024/31).

Enemy Transports to Albania. Situation Report. C. in C. informed me that Jugo Slav General Staff report arrival in Albania of four more Infantry divisions bringing total to fifteen of which twelve are on our front. Also continual movement of transports between Italy and Albania. He requests most urgently that any action possible be taken to interrupt this transportation, and that earliest help possible should be given by bombing Italian concentrations in Albania using Greek aerodromes for refuelling as required. Points out essential to retard Italian operations as long as possible. General communique for today no activity worth reporting. Enemy bringing up artillery and stores. Patras twice bombed today without damage. (M.A. Athens, to W.O., 0031/31).

Greek Troop Convoys. Greek troop convoys start to-night Thursday. All convoys are escorted and mostly to Salonica using general Euboean Channel. (N.A. Athens 1401/31 to C.in C. Med.).

/ Enemy Fleet .....

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS. Mediterranean

Italian Campaign Against Greece. (Continued)

Enemy Fleet. Aircraft report on landing. Brindisi One Battleship under construction 6 large cruisers 2 other cruisers 12 destroyers 2 merchant vessels and 30 seaplanes. Taranto 3 battleships and 11 cruisers or possibly 5 battleships and 9 cruisers, large number of destroyers and 25 seaplanes. T.O.O. 1605/31 Ends. (V.A. Malta 1613/31).

Summary of air reconnaissance 31/10.
(a) Brindisi. One destroyer outside course 135 degs. at 1300. Taranto - of ships already reported two cruisers 8 destroyers and 20 torpedo craft alongside quay inner harbour. Further in 15 small craft and 25 seaplanes. Moderate A/A fire.
(b) No activity Ionian Islands. 12 very small ships of which one of one thousand tons SANTA QUARENTA one 8 thousand ton merchant vessel off Saseno Island. Gulf of Patras not reconnoitred owing to heavy rain.
(c) Nothing sighted in Ionian Sea.
T.O.O. 1747/31. (V.A. Malta 1753/31).

Malta Air Report. Malta situation report up to 1700 hours 31/10 all times G.M.T. 0830 to 1330 Glenn Martin Reconnaissance Malta Corfu Brindisi Taranto Malta for enemy surface forces and to examine and report shipping in ports. Main shipping signals amplified on landing as follows. Corfu no shipping in Straits between Corfu and Mainland. Santa Queranta one ship of possibly 1000 tons off Saseno Island one M/V about 8000 tons. Brindisi one Battleship under construction no superstructure six large Cruisers including the BARI and TARANTO. 2 other Cruisers 12 Destroyers one of which outside harbour course 135 degrees 2 M/V's and 30 Float-planes. TARANTO 5 Battleships of which 2 possibly Cruisers 11 Cruisers of which 2 possibly Battleships large number of Destroyers and one M/V of these 2 Cruisers and 8 Destroyers in unner Harbour also 20 smaller Destroyers or Torpedo Craft alongside Quay. Further in 15 Small Craft and 25 Seaplanes. Moderate inaccurate A.A. Fire TARANTO. 0900 to 1430 Blenheim Recco Malta Cephalonia then along Coast Northwards to Le' Kay Island Gulf of Arta Malta to report enemy naval movement. Reported on landing. At Gostoli 3 Small Sailing Coasters nil remainder of route unable to reconnoitre Gulf of Patras bad weather reconnaissance of Ionian Sea North of lat 37 degrees North by 2 Sunderlands as follows. 0500 1440 Sunderland 230 Squadron. 0515 1425 Sunderland 228 Squadron. Nil reports both aircraft. No naval or military items. No enemy air activity over Malta today .....

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Italian Campaign Against Greece. (Continued)

Malta Air Report. (contd.) today. (A.H.Q. Mediterranean 1700/31).

Greek Submarines. In view of supreme important of cutting Italian communications to Albania for next month Greek C.N.S. considers it desirable to concentrate on submarines against these communications. If you agree and can move any British submarine away which is now there Greek C.N.S. will move up three submarines as early as possible for operating between latitudes 39° 50' and 41° 20'. Information urgently requested concerning (a) most profitable areas of operation (b) Italian A/S methods (c) any fixed A/S installations of nets or mines. (N.A. Athens, 1644/31, to C.in C. Med.)

Troop Convoys. Greek troop convoys disembark tonight, Thursday. All convoys are escorted and mostly to Salonica using the general Euboean channel. (N.A. Athens, 1924/31). (N.A. Athens, 1924/31).

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

French Squdn. Alexandria.

Your 1201/16 and related signals. For your information H.M.G. are opposing the release of French funds in U.S.A. for maintenance of the Alexandria Squadron since this would create an undesirable precedent for releasing funds generally for French overseas purposes. If funds are not released position remains as in para. 2 of my 1731/28/9. A.T. 1649/28. In view of possible naval co-operation between Vichy Government and Axis powers, request also your general appreciation of sympathies of French squadron. (Md. of M. 1425/31 to C.in C. Med.).

East Indies.

Italian Use of Tracer.

On 21 October 1 Italian destroyer was firing white tracer from all guns the other red and green from each mounting. Performance of tracer excellent. This identified them and helped to locate them when not illuminated. 1 ship of convoy mistook them for Commodore's Very Light signals. (S.N.O. Red Sea, 0850Z/31 to C.in C. E.I.)

Convoy C.M.5.

Will be ready to leave Durban at 1400/2. JOLOMBO to sail accordingly as escort to Mombasa. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1020Z/31).

MAURETANIA, AQUITANIA, QUEEN MARY.

Your 2223/29. Dates of intended sailing for Fremantle.
(S.S.T.O., India, to D. or S.T., 1115Z/31).

Convoys W.S.3. B.N.8½

Time expected to pass Aden and arrival Suez. (C.in C. E.I. 1242Z/31).

Perim Raid, British Air Report.

Daily Intelligence Summary No. 141 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ended 1500 31/10. 0240 enemy dropped 9 bombs on Perim without damage. 0630 to 1400 2 Blenheims 203 Squadron from Kamaran patrolled convoy SW 2 A. 0930 4 railway stations between Diredawa and French Somaliland each attacked by 2 Blenheims all simultaneously Indian Wing at Duanle all bombs in area including 1 in coal yard 1 on track 1 by water tank 2 on buildings west of track. At Adele 3 bombs across track and building remainder wide. 8 Squadron at Aiscia all bombs west of target damage doubtful, at Adagalla all bombs straddled track near buildings and blew down telephone lines. No opposition but exceptionally strong surface wind complicated bombing. No damage or casualties all times G.M.T.
(Air H.Q. Aden, 1830/31 to Air Min.).

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Routeing of Dutch Shipping. Commander Willinge, Royal Dutch Navy has visited Singapore with instructions to discuss routeing of merchant shipping in the event of war with Japan. Have informed him of sense of paragraph three of Captain on Staff's telegram 18 and given him information he asked for as far as this could be done without discussing full plan. (C.in C. China, 0509/31 to Admty.)

ILE DE FRANCE. Repatrioes Admty. 1149/19 para.1. Repatrioes from ILE DE FRANCE can almost certainly be sent in Dutch Ship leaving Singapore (date) for Lourenco Marques and Durban if very early definite booking is made. Intend to book for Lourenco Marques as required unless instructions are received to the contrary before 4/11. (C.in C. China, 0851/31 to Admty.)

Singapore Conference. Conclusions of after survey of defence problems in Far East. (C.in C. China, 0951Z/31, 1031Z/31, to Admty., and for W.O. and A.M.).

America and West Indies.

BOUGAINVILLE. My 1131/29. San Francisco reports BOUGAINVILLE sailed San Francisco 30/10 for Indo-China via Honolulu omitting British Columbia port. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0924/31).

Town Class Destroyers. Hope to sail BUXTON, CAMERON, GEORGETOWN for U.K. A.M.1/11 if BUXTON dynamos which have been giving trouble are satisfactory. If not, should CAMERON and GEORGETOWN sail together? (N.O.I.C. St. John's, 1540/31).

A.M.C's Exchange. In view of C.in C. A.W.I. 1001/28, further exchanges of station referred to in Admty. 1651/10 are at present in abeyance. Para.2 of my 1341/19 is cancelled. (D.O.D.(F) 1426/31)

Free French Offer, Sydney, C.B. Offer from French sailors in trawlers ZAZPIAKBAT, FOUDROYANT, ATLANTA and LES GEMEAUX to join Free French cause. 4 vessels lying at Sydney, C.B., since June. Request men may be sent to London at first opportunity. (Adm. Comd. F.F.F. to Admty. 1620/31).

/ CHARLES L.D. .....

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Continued)

CHARLES L.D.

My 1202/29. New York reports steamship CHARLES L.D. now reported to have sailed from Casablanca 29/10 for Martinique with U.S. cargo ex steamship INCLUV not GABON. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1032/31).

Intelligence of Vichy French Fleet.

Following information received from Navy Dept: from Casablanca. Preparations are under way for JEAN BART to proceed to Toulon.
From Dakar. 4 French submarines arrived on 28/10 and S.S. PORTHOS left for Casablanca same day.
From Algiers. It has been learned from a reliable source that a telegram from Admiral Darlan has been received by local High Command of French Naval Forces. Message stated "In order to save our Empire I must have French Fleet prepared for calls both night and day".

HELGOLAND.

From Bogota. HELGOLAND is understood to be provisioned for six months and reported to carry three guns. Information for what it is worth was obtained from a German by Ambassador from Brazil.
(N.A. Washington 1816/31).

Greek Ships.

Following received from New York "Following telegram from Mitsubishi Tokyo received by Mitsubshi New York begins. Request owners representative or agents send telegraphed orders to Captains of Greek Vessels en route to Japan that they may enter Japanese ports without fear as we have obtained Japanese Government guarantee to give them no restriction of their movements after discharge and give themevery possible convenience for their sailing. Ends. Mitsubishi New York has requested agents all Greek ships that are Japanese chartered to telegraph masters conveying this guarantee. Similar action is being taken by Mitsu 1458/21". (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1357/31.)

Australia.

AWATEA.

Left Sydney 08182/31 for Auckland with 205 service personnel. ADELAIDE escort to 33.15 S., 156° E. (A.C.N.B., 1039Z/31)

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HELGOLAND, reported scuttled. Los Angeles report (B.2) destination is Santa Domingo and that she will be disguised as a Dutch ship (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0111/31) Barranquila reports (C.3) scuttled, position unknown. Crew taken on board Japanese ship SAKURA MARU sailed Barranquila 29/10 New York. (S.O.I., Kingston, 2111/31) See also N.A. Washington 1816/31 (A.W.I.)

STORMAN Reported with cargo of iron ore is preparing to sail from Bilbao on or about 1/11. Probable destination Bayonne. (D.D.I.C., 0617/31).

RIO GRANDE. Grounded in port this evening 31/10 in attempting to sail. Efforts being made to refloat her. (R.O., Rio Grande, 2045/31) My 2045. RIO GRANDE sailed 2210/31. (R.O., Rio Grande, 2214/31). (S.O.I., Montevideo, 0146Z/1, 0230Z/1).

SESOSTRIS. My 2017/30. Curacao now states report appears false but his informant now states unnamed Italian ship trying to escape from Puerto Cabello. (S.O.I., Kingston, 2301/31).

NORBURG
DELOS
LARISSA Departures in Ballast Russian and German steamers NORBURG and DELOS and arrival from Russia LARISSA 2900 Manganese ore. (Macrae, Galati 1217/31).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

SAN FRANCISCO
WINNIPEG. Reference Admty. 1658/14 to N.A. SAN FRANCISCO left New York to join WINNIPEG from New Orleans off Gee Island 2130 G.M.T./30. Vessels proceed in company 12 knots routed by French 40° 38' N. 50° W. great circle 55° 35' N. 10° W. expected to arrive position 55° 35' N. 7° W. at 0830 G.M.T./12/11. Approach route Liverpool issued by Admiralty through N.A. received by both vessels. (N.C.S.O. New York 1551/31).

PORT RICHEPANSE. Following received from New York. Begins:- PORT RICHEPANSE sailed 30/10/ for Martinique and Guadaloupe cargo general merchandise. Will endeavour ascertain details. Ends. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2002/31.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.10.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

BALZAC (Attacked 30/10)

My position course and speed 55.25' N., 09.19'W., 070°, 8, escorting BALZAC and ? both for Mersey. (GERANIUM, 1300/31)

Submarines Reported

0830

Periscope sighted close by position 56.50 N. 09.14 W., at 0730 G.M.T. T.O.R. 0853. (ACHILLES (Dutch) no T.O.O./31)

With object of detecting and destroying U-Boats on passage off the Irish Coast, A/S patrols should be instituted at your discretion either in the vicinity of the 100 fathom line between latitude 51° and 53° (N) or a crossover patrol as follows through positions CHTV 1800, ZJDE 4330, ZJDE 5022 and CHTV 0804 starting as early as practicable leaving base by daylight and returning to base in daylight. (Air Min. to C.C., 1835/31)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian 1 off Gironde 1855/30
German 1 was in 54° 30' N., 23° 26' W., 1850/30.
1 was in about 56° 30' N., between 14° W., and 17° E., at 1105/30.
1 was in about 58° 30' N., and west of 18° W at 1511/30.
1 was in 56° 50' N., 9° 14' W., at 0830/31
Possibly 1 more in nearer N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
1 probably N. of 60° N and west of 15° W may be homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1257/31)

Submarines Attacked

By TALISMAN 22/10

TALISMAN reports four armed trawlers in 46° N., 02° 16' W., at 0015/18. Beacon trawler previously reported by TIGRIS not seen. TALISMAN trimmed down fired 6 torpedoes at CALVI Class U-Boat at 0645/22 in 45° 49' N., 01° 43' W. Explosion close ahead immediately after firing probably owing to torpedo hitting bottom. TALISMAN dived after firing and then surfaced and opened fire unsuccessfully with gun. Enemy submarine fire 3 white stars and then dived. An East West trawler patrol from passage De O'Ouest is maintained. Air activity slight. (V.A.S. 1903/31)

/by HARVESTER...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.10.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked-Contd.

By HARVESTER
U- 237 Sunk 30/10

Arrived HARVESTER with U/Boat prisoners. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1116/31) E.T.A. 2130. Have 4 U-Boat prisoners. (HIGHLANDER, 1505/31 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool)

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

HELENA MARGARETA — British, 3316 tons. Engines disabled 8 miles West of Skerryvore. (H.MARGARETA 0519/31) Have ceased making water but rapidly drifting into danger and require towing. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0655/31) An standing by ship (WESTON 0840/31 to C.in C. W.A.). In tow of WESTON at 56° 33' N. 7° 5' W. At 1715/31, proceeding to Tobermory at 3 knots. Tugs DILIGENT and HIBISCUS in company. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1820/31 to Tug THAMES) Tug THAMES should arrive Ship 1500/31. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1232/31 to WESTON.)

Report position. Tug THAMES unable to make contact (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1511/1 to WESTON) HELENA MARGARETA in tow of WESTON arrived Loch Bay, Skye. (TRELAWNEY 1731/1 to C.in C. W.A.).

GUNNY. — Norwegian, 2362 tons. Due Cape Town 27/10 from Rio de Janeiro. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town 0945 B/31 to Adty.)

VERS LE DESTIN. — French Drifter. Ashore 100 yards West of Mole at Lyme Regis. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1556/31 to Adty.) Afloat and proceeding into Lyme Regis Harbour. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1819/31 to Adty.)

BRYNMILL. — Tug ENGLISHMAN is pumping out compartments in Loch Dunvegan, Skye. Intends sail for Stornoway at daybreak/1 ifweather favourabl (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2016/31 to Adty.)

June 1940

War Diary.

1.6.40.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

Casualties. (Evacuation of B.E.F.)

The destroyers BASILISK, HAVANT, and KEITH were sunk and IVANHOE, VIVACIOUS, VENEMOUS, WORCESTER EXPRESS and VIMY were damaged; and of other vessels two minesweepers, one corvette, three trawlers, two transports, and the yacht AMULREE were sunk.

British Air Activity

An attack was made on shipping and oil tanks at Bergen by 6 Hudsons, and an attack on shipping in Willemsund dockyard (Holland).

Norway

VINDICTIVE arrived at Scapa from Narvik during the night 31/5-1/6 with 1000 troops.

Owing to the destruction at NARVIK of all quays and electric power, damage to railway and obstructions in harbours, it is estimated that export of ore in appreciable quantities cannot take place for twelve months.

French troops have taken Stromsnes, 6 miles E. of Narvik and the Germans have fallen back on Sydvik, 10 miles E. of Narvik. Polish troops are advancing on this position from the S.E.

Bodo which had been severely damaged by enemy aircraft was successfully evacuated by our troops on the night of 31st. May.

Hungarian mobilisation

Further mobilisation of Hungarian forces is in progress, thought to be at request of Italy to safeguard against possible action by Yugoslavia should Italy enter the war. Hungarian Army now about two thirds mobilised.

War Diary

1.6.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

Thurso — Requesting arms and ammunition for use in emergency (A.C.O.S., 1159/1).

Trawlers — For C. in C., Rosyth. (Hd. of M., to C. in C., Rosyth, 1235/1).

Batteries for Army — R.N. and R.M. 12 pdr., 3 pdr., and 4 in. batteries to be under operational control and administration of the Army (D.T.S.D, 1209/1).

Civil Powers — Advising Members of H.M. Forces of the additional powers they have when acting in the course of their duty. (D. of L.D., 1037/1).

Waterborne L.D.V. — H.Q., Eastern Command arranging for waterborne Local Defence Volunteers for inland waters in the command. Consideration being given to the general extension of L.D.V. for water-borne service in estuaries and inland waters. (Hd. of M., 1107/1, to C. in C., Nore).

Invasion — Suggested method of countering Motor boats or flat bottomed troop carriers. (C.N.S., Ottawa, 1206/31).

Leith, Rosyth, Inchkeith defences — D. of L.D. 1721/1.

Humber defence — F.O. Humber 2020/30/5, Adty. 0001/22/5. His powers (D.C.N.S.(H) 1245/1, F.O. Humber, 2340/1).

(Ireland)

C. in C., W.A. in charge — Request you will assume responsibility for operations to secure the Irish coasts (D.O.D.H. to C. in C., W.A. 0026/1).

R.M. Striking Force — Re early arrangements to be made for provision of Royal Marine Striking Force (A.C.W.A. to Adty. 2354/1).

Belgian Trawlers — Refusal to serve. Recommend all crews and Skippers be investigated and kept on board until then (C. in C., W.A. 1314/1).

War Diary

1.6.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operation G.B.

A.M.Cs. Cruise by A.M.Cs. to report and if possible intercept German and suspicious vessels leaving Vigo or approaching South and West coast of Ireland. Areas established. Execution ships:- CORFU, MONTCLARE, MALOJA, CHESHIRE. To be known as operation G.B. (C. in C., W.A. 1824/1).

DERBYSHIRE Orders for, report and intercept German and suspicious vessels leaving Vigo or making for South and west coast of Ireland (A.C.W.A. 2029/1).

18th C.S.

Employment of 18th C.S. Adty. 2226/31 and C. in C. H.F. 2013/31. In view of great importance of immediate counter attack with sufficient force C.S. 18 and destroyers with him should be under orders of C. in C., Nore during first stages of invasion. If landing occur North and South of Humber, I would aim to move C.S. 18 north rather than south. Clearly most desirable that C.S. 18 should join C. in C. Home Fleet before he makes contact with enemy's main fleet. I should therefore endeavour to release C.S. 18 as soon as possible and would rely on Adty. to inform me immediately they thought it desirable to do so. (C. in C., Nore, 1004/1).

Humber base Ships in Humber very exposed to attack by E. boats Boom defence required if base is to be used for any length of time. (F.O.C. 18th C.S. 1224/1).

Degree of readiness Cruisers of 18th C.S. and 3 destroyers of 8th D.F. to be at 2.1/2' hours notice during daylight hours - and at ½ hour's notice after dark till further orders. (C. in C., Nore 1303/1).

Arrangements for warning. Reference C.S. 18's 1224, can you arrange patrols to give warning of M.T.B's submarine or other form of attack. (C. in C., Nore, 1926/1 to F.O. Humber).

War Diary

1.6.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation Alphabet.

DUCHESS OF YORK sailed 1830/1.
(F.O.I.C, Liverpool 1830/1) Route as in my 1335/30, modified. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1225/1).

Evacuation of B.E.F. from Dunkirk

West Beach used — All M/S not now full are to fill at Western Beach now (F.O.I.C. Dover 0455/1 to M/S on Beaches).

More Boats needed — Absolutely essential provide many more boats with M/B's to tow if grave losses to be avoided and remainder B.E.F. cleared (Whitaker to Gen. Dill by SPEEDWELL 0430/1).

M/Bs to be sent — All M/Bs from Burnham at Harwich and any others available to be sent at once to Ramsgate for operation DYNAMO (D.S.V.P. to F.O. Harwich 0947/1).

HALCYON
SKIPJACK
SPEEDWELL
SHARPSHOOTER

Troops from La Panne now marching towards Dunkirk. Act accordingly. (N.O.I.C. Dover, 0306/1).

3 Tugs 30 Power Boats and 40 Life Boats to be sailed immediately East of Dunkirk as soon as possible. Naval crews with Life Boats and you to provide extra Towage. (V.A. Dover to N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 0452/1).

Fighters needed — Fighter Patrol W. of La Panne very necessary (M.S.5 to Dover 0455/1).

No ships entered between 2230 and 0420. Unsuccessful dive bombing attack just finished, British Fighters arrived. Smoke covers pier and embarkation recommenced. Reported Beaches heavily shelled and improvised Pier smashed. (S.N.O. Dunkirk to V.A. Dover, 0555/1).

Eastern Beaches untenable. Military evacuating to Dunkirk. Am loading all ships at Dunkirk and directing all small craft near there. More ships required. Heavy bombing on Dunkirk and Fighter attacks on ships. (R.A. Dover to N.O.I.C. Dover 0625/1).

War Diary

1.6.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Evacuation of B.E.F. (Contd.)

Paddle Minesweepers

All available are required to take part in final evacuation tonight. Instructions (F.O.I.C. Dover 0847/1).

Cover

CALCUTTA return to Sheerness. Similar cover will be required tonight. (V.A. Dover 0900/1).

In view of repidly increasing destroyer casualties, I submit advisable for Adty. to make signal that destroyers are to be used in connection with the evacuation only in positions where they can manoeuvre at high speed and avoid serious damage. Inshore work to be done exclusively by vessels of smaller fighting value than destroyers. (C. in C. Nore, 1316/1).

Send Fighter aircraft Dunkirk Channel (SALTASH 1248/1).

Interception of M.T.Bs.

M/L 100 and 2 M A/S Bs. to patrol during dark from inshore to 5 miles off coast on line app. 348° from Nieuport, returning Harwich at daybreak (C. in C. Nore to F.O.I.C. Harwich 1520/1)

Hold on as long as possible to enable maximum French and British evacuation - Act on your own judgment in close co-operation with Admiral Abrial. (CIGS to Gen. Alexander by WINCHELSEA 1729/1).

EPERVIER and LEOPARD to be at 115° North Goodwin L.V. 7 and 14 miles respectively by 0430/2 and CALCUTTA 115° North Goodwin L.V. 23 miles to provide protection (V.A. Dover, 1309/1).

Bombardment

By day bombardment only to be attempted in self defence. Ships to keep well clear except when required to close for evacuation. (V.A. Dover to S.A.Nore & Dover 1328/1).

War Diary

1.6.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Evacuation of B.E.F. (Continued).

M/S Flotillas — All available ships of M/S Flotillas under N.O.I.C. Dover required to assist evacuation tonight. All ships with D.G. equipment to arrive off beach between Dunkirk and 1½ miles East at 2200/1. Ships to report forthwith whether can comply. (N.O.I.C. Dover to C. in C., Nore, etc. 1510/1).

Destroyers — All destroyers are to return to harbour forthwith (V.A. Dover, 1345/1).

Reported number of towing and small craft returning empty. Essential to arrest this. Keep look out and force them back (N.O.I.C. Dover to Force K. & M/S 2201/1).

Shelling, causing casualties — Casualties to shipping by heavy artillery. All shipping has been ordered to withdraw before daylight to-morrow (V.A. Dover to Gen. Alexander (S.N.O. Dunkirk, 2214/1).

Disposition of ships and small craft on completion of Operation DYNAMO. (D.O.D.H. to V.A. Dover, 2321/1).

Cherbourg — No air raids, port open, wharves rail and quays intact. 5000 British Troops embarking and 1300 awaiting passage. (B.N.L.O. Marceau to Adty. 1035/1).

Repatriation of French Troops — Adty. 1623/31 (return of French Troops to France) Para 3. For Brest read Cherbourg. (D.O.D.H. to C. in C., W.A. 1139/1).

Adty. 1613/31. Additional arrangements. Up to 5 Army cross Channel steamers, total capacity 5000, to cross Southampton or Weymouth to Cherbourg every night; and three French Transports with Dutch KONIGEN EMMA and PRINCESS BEATRIX, total capacity 10,000 to cross Plymouth to Brest. Hoped maintain 24 hour turn round and cross outward by night. (D.O.D.H. 1535/1).

MONA'S ISLE — Shelled off No. 5 Buoy, Dunkirk channel. (N. Foreland Radio 1455/1).

LOCUST — Begin your retirement at 0230/2 and not 0330/2 (N.O.I.C. Dover to LOCUST 2215/1).

War Diary

1.6.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Evacuation of B.E.F. (Contd.)

If channel still available during daylight it is intended evacuation proceed continuously from 2130/1 till 0700/2 and, if necessary from 1730/2 till dark. If impossible use any of three channels from Dunkirk owing to shell fire from Coast Batteries, inform Adty. at once. (1 S.L. to R.A. Dover 2021/1).

Owing to severe conditions and enormous wastage on Dunkirk coast small boat flotillas vital for Beach work can no longer be relied on even in fair weather. At least two such flotillas have turned back tonight. (V.A. Dover to Adty. 2328/1).

Reported that number of towing and small boats are returning empty. Essential to arrest this. Keep a good look out and force them back. (N.O.I.C. Dover 2201/1 to Force K and Minesweepers

SALTASH — 2 funnel transport bombed. Am going to her assistance, another smaller one sinking (SALTASH 1210/1).
Your 1235. Proceed to Sheerness. (C. in C., Nore, 1507/1). Require assistance (SALTASH 1205/1).

WORCESTER — Return to Dover at once. (F.O., Dover, 1703/1).

Operation Orders — Embarkation of troops from Dunkirk Harbour is to proceed continuously from 2130 today until 0700 tomorrow Sunday. Strong and continuous fighter protection will be procided from 0430 until 0830 tomorrow. Protection by Coastal Command will be provided from 0830 until 1100. It is hoped that the evacuation may be completed tonight but should this not be possible you should be prepared for further evacuation tomorrow Sunday night. It may be necessary to carry out evacuation from 1730 tomorrow in addition to the night evacuation. Should it be decided that the conditions are such that evacuation cannot be carried out between 0300 tomorrow and 0700 tomorrow, Sunday, you will be informed. (1st S.L., 2025/1 to V.A. Dover).

War Diary

1.6.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Evacuation of B.E.F. (Cont'd).

5th Column	False information and orders toreturn being given our inshore units by Fifth Column Skoots or other vessels. Endeavour keep our small vessels to their duty on the coast. (V.A.Dover to Force X and M/S 2335/1).
	Endeavour embark Rear Guard from Beach remaining after 0300 if necessary (Dover to Force K M/S and LOCUST. 0225/2).
WORCESTER	Am being shelled Lapanne Beach (WORCESTER to F.O. Dover 0028/1).
Bray Beach	Beach Bray being very heavily shelled (D.I. to F.O. Dover Straits 0111/1).
MALCOLM HARVESTER BASILISK	Cancel my 0045. Proceed into Dunkirk. (N.O.I.C. Dover 0150/1).
Dunkirk	Evacuation takes place tonight on E. Beach between 2100/1 and 0330/2 for 9000 men, from E. pier between 2100/1 and 0330/2 for 7000 men, and from E. side harbour between 2200/1 and 0300/2 for 1000 men. All naval personnel to be withdrawn Saturday night and evacuation by British ships will not continue during 2nd. (V.A. Dover, 1609/1).
	Over 100 bombers on ships near here since 0530 and many casualties. Have diverted no ships sail during daylight, so evacuation ceases at 0300. If perimeter holds will complete evacuation Sunday night including most French. (Received from Dunkirk, V.A. Dover to Adty. 1754/1).
	Destroyers to proceed in pairs at hourly intervals to East Pier Dunkirk Harbour, returning Dover when loaded. If no vacant berth assist at Beach instead. Leave Dunkirk vicinity not later than 0300/2. (N.O.I.C. Dover to Force K. 1801/1).
Air Protection	Strong continuous patrols to be carried out over Dunkirk and beaches from 0430/2 to 0830/2 and, if evacuation continues, from 1700/2 to 2100/2. Night Fighter Patrols in same area and between N. Foreland and Dunkirk during night 1/2 June. (Air Min. to Fighter Command 1930/1).

War Diary

1.6.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Evacuation of B.E.F. (Contd.)

Force K.

Following destroyers required for duty tonight, ESK, CODRINGTON, ICARUS, WINDSOR, VENOMOUS, WINCHELSEA, WHITSHED, SABRE, SHIKARI. will be addressed as Force K. (V.A. Dover, 1711/1, 1745/1)

Daylight evacuation unwise

New shore battery in action this evening and all channels to Dunkirk now under enemy fire maintaining heavy barrage which has sunk Transports MONAS ISLE and BRIGHTON QUEEN and one Trawler near No. 5 Buoy. Eight Transports now lost and eight disabled and crews offothers difficult to keep on service. Am suspending traffic on only remaining daylight route and consider any continued daylight evacuation unwise. Request permission withdraw all forces at 0300/2 till following night. (V.A. Dover to Adty. 2329/1).

War Diary

1.6.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Norway

Group 2 Convoy — Route and escort (C. in C., Rosyth 1225/1.

TRUANT — Submarine TRUANT patrol report 20/5 to 27/5 between Nordkap and 29° E with object of preventing German landing. (V.A.S. 1806/1)

REDCAR
EMIL JAVARY
VULCAIN
CORMINSTER
ROYAL SCOTSMAN
WHIRLWIND
— Re sailing (F.O. Narvik 1938/1)

Bodo — Evacuation was successfully accomplished last night without loss (F.O. Narvik 2324/1)

Operations-Iceland

Convoy A.B. 2. — To return when unloaded (D.O.D. (H) 2141/1)

Re Transport of troops to Iceland only Canadian ship capable is LADY DRAKE, she needs 2 voyages. Re first completing Jamaica movements. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 1706/1)

Allied Naval Units

M.T.B's — Propose forming ex-Norwegian and Greek Vosper-built M.T.B's as 11th Mc T.B. Flotilla. (HORNET, 1158/1) Approved. (D.O.D.(H), 1830/1)

Dutch Signals — Dutch recognition signals. (D.S.D., 1610/1)

Norwegian M.T.B's — Two now ready. Recommend sailing them for Norway as soon as possible. (C.in C., Portsmouth, 1053/1)

Submarines

Positions — 0600/2 (RAS 1751/1)

ORZEL
TRIAD
TRIDENT
— Orders for patrol (Capt. (S) 2 1506/1)

War Diary

1.6.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

AIR

British Air Activity.

2346/31

Estimated direct hit on one of three enemy M.T.B's at 51.28'N 03.03'E.

Can possibility be considered of fitting swordfish aircraft with what is know as a Cannon for destroying enemy M.T.B's (C. in C., H.F. to Adty. 1023/1)

Enemy Air Activity

D.19 bombed, bridge hit. (ALBURY, 0758/1)

Marseilles Bombed

German aircraft bombed Marseilles to-day. SS ORFORD reported hit. (Air Ministry, no T.O.O., Recd. 1920/1) ORFORD sank later.

Bombs were dropped in Norfolk. Casualties and damage slight.

Attacks on fishing trawlers. SLASHER sunk.

GREY KNIGHT sunk
KATREEN damaged
0400/1 while fishing in
54°30'N 1°40'E, at
Dogger Bank.

Enemy aircraft attacked a group of fishing trawlers late in the afternoon 1/6 80 miles E. of Humber. Some 29 bombs were reported to have been dropped. Trawler SLASHER was sunk and other vessels in company suffered slight damage.

Another trawler was attacked the same evening 26 miles N.N.E. of Flamborough Head. (I.C. 0470/40)

Attacks on Dunkirk and ships

0057/1 HARVESTER machine gunned 51.14'N 1.4'E.

0446 Signals from WORCESTER, D 19,
to ALBURY, ROSS, CODRINGTON, VIVACIOUS.
0542

0756 Destroyer hit (R.A. DOVER 0756/1)

0738 Signals from KEITH, HALCYON, LEDA,
to CODRINGTON, ICARUS, IVANHOE,
0800 HARVESTER, SPEEDWELL.

1010 Signals from SALTASH, SPEEDWELL.
to
1035

1404 Signals from MONAS ISLE, WORCESTER.
to
1619

War Diary

1.6.40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Enemy Air Activity

BOMBAY	Steam trawler, Grimsby. Bombed and machine gunned from 0930 to noon, North Sea fishing grounds, 89 miles E. ½ S. No casualties. Lewis and Ross Rifle gun defence. (I.D.A.A. Form).
SLASHER	Steam trawler, Grimsby. Sunk 54:35 N., 1:16 E., at 2130/1, after attack at 2000/1 by delay action bomb, near miss, and gunfire. Deck hand killed. 3 (including Captain) slightly wounded. (I.D. Form A.A.).
SCOUTER	Steam trawler, Grimsby. Bombed and machine gunned 2005/1, 54:35 N., 1:16 E., after attack on SLASHER. Damaged, no casualties. Embarked survivors from SLASHER. No guns carried. (I.D. Form A.A.)
MEDIAN	Steamtrawler, Grimsby. Bombed and machine gunned 53° N.E. ½ N. at 1820/1. No casualties. (I.D. Form A.A.)
NATAL II	Steam trawler, Grimsby. Badly damaged by bombs and machine guns 83 miles E. ½ S. from Humber. 0930 to noon. No casualties. (I.D. Form A.A.)
IRANIAN	Steam trawler, Grimsby. Bombed and machine gunned 55' N.E. ½ N. from 61 B. Buoy, 1820/1 no casualties (I.D. Form A.A.)
ROYALTY	Barge, 101 tons. Bombed and abandoned off Dunkirk (D.S. 284)
SCOTIA sunk	British 3454 tons. Bombed and made off Dunkirk 33 saved, 31 missing. (War Cabinet, Chiefs of Staff Committee. Weekly Resume. No.40).
NATAL II	Trawler. 0925/1 53:40 N. 2:35 E. 2 aireraft sighted. Dropped 2 aerial torpedoes. Then bombed and machine gunned. No casualties or damage. BOMBAY (Trawler) fired and hit one aireraft. (Master of NATAL II, Shipping Casualties Section, Trade Division).
KEITH	Flotilla Leader. Bombed sunk. Account of the sinking by Midshipman H.B. Poustie R.N.R. (M.011199/40)

HOME COMMANDS

Air

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

CASTOR	British S.S. 189 tons bombed at 54:33 N. 1:16½ E. at 1935/1. No damage. (I.D. Form A.A.)
SCOOPER	British Trawler bombed and machine-gunned at 0730 at 54:40 N. 1:30 E. Slight damage. (I.D. Form A.A.)
CLACTON	British Trawler 250 tons bombed at 1830/1 at 54:30 N., 1:30 E. Damaged. (I.D. Form A.A.)
ROYALTY	British barge 101 tons. Bombed and abandoned off Dunkirk.

War Diary

1.6.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Magnetic Mining

Dunkirk Roads have been heavily magnetic mined to-night, probably in channels near light buoys. (Capt. D.19. to Dover Force 0100/1)

Two magnetic mines destroyed 51.55'20"N 01.19'48"E and 51.55'27"N. 01.19'44"E. (F.O. Harwich to Adty. 1720/1)

Magnetic mines 4 cables S.E. from 12 buoy (F.O.I.C. Dover 003"1)

Roads and focal points on the evacuation routes were heavily mined in the night 31 May/1/June. (N.I.D.O. 1507/39)

Shipping

Belgian Trawlers

Important in view of recent large withdrawals of British trawlers from fishing that Belgian trawlers should provide fish. (A.C.N.S., 1731/1)

Fishing Area

Admty. 1902/30, new eastern limit for fishing area. Concur with C. in C., Rosyth's 1121/31, that margin is inadequate. (C. in C., H.F., 2211/1)

Italian Ships

Positions in home waters, additions. (D.D.I.C., 1813/1)

Belgian Vessels

Request confirmation of instructions that Belgian vessels are to be treated as Allied Ships (N.C.S.O. London, 1229/1)

Miscellaneous

M/L VERNON

Brilliant flash and german speaking on R/T 0220/1 (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven/1345/1)

WEATHER

0500	WIND	VISIBILITY	OUTLOOK
North Sea	Light, variable	Moderate	Moderate W.wind Visibility moderate. Fog patches.
Channel	N.W.Light	Good	Similar
W.Approaches	Light,variable	Good	Similar, Fog patches.
Horns Reef	N.W.Moderate	Moderate	Moderate W.wind Fog patches
W. Coast Norway	Light,variable	Moderate Fog patches	Similar
Dutch Coast	W.Light	Moderate to Good	Similar

War Diary

1.6.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

I.M.V.	Distant 1 mile, course 150° 15 knots My position 50.25'N 3.52'W (Dutch submarine O 10, 0340/1)
M.T.B's.	S W Buoy Dunkirk (LEDA 0847/1)
M.V. hit	3 vessels at Ameland bombed, direct hit started fire in one small coasting vessel. Donibristle Recd. 0318/1, 2359/1)
Disguised M.T.B.	On night 31 May 1 June, one enemy M.T.B. was sighted disguised as a sailing boat (R.A. (S) 1634/1)
1 M.V. (3000 tons) 2 M.B's	1400/1 proceeding up Froisjoen Fiord 61.43'N 4.59'E. Bombed. No hits. (aircraft report)
4 M.T.B's	2210/1, 59.56'N 2.23'E (25 miles S. of Bergen)(Aircraft report)
2 M.V's (4000-5000 tons)	Bombed in Bergen harbour 2228/1, Near misses (aircraft report)
M.V's	2229/1 4 M.V's bombed in Bergen outer harbour. Near misses (Aircraft report)
	2234/1 Several M.V's close together in Bergen outer harbour, bombed, result unknown.
	1 M/V (7000 tons) Bombed 60.28'N 5.15'E by fiord 4 miles N. of Bergen, result unknown. 1 Trawler machine gunned 60.27'N 5.18'E alongside fuel tanks 3 miles N. of Bergen (Aircraft report)

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

HAVANT	Badly damaged by bomb. Abandoned and sunk in position 126 position W. Fimles. (SALTASH 1235/1, 0950/1, 0905/1, 1034/1, V.A. Dover, 0022/2).
IVANHOE	In tow of tug PERSIA. Damaged by bomb Dunkirk Roads. Proceeding towards Sheerness (V.A., Dover 1146/1, IVANHOE 0915/1, 0815/1, 1055/1, SALAMANDER 0948/12.
SCIMITAR	Collision damage forward (V.A. Dover,1146/1).
SALAMANDER	Bombed. Engines disabled (V.A. Dover, 1146/1).
VIMY	In collision with H.M. Yacht AMULREE off Goodwin's buoy (VIMY, 0200/1). Collision damage forward (V.A. Dover, 1146/1).
AMULREE	H.M. yacht sunk see VIMY.
BASILISK	Sunk (by air attack) West Deep. Am picking up survivors (WHITEHALL 1258/1).
SKIPJACK sunk.	One minesweeper sunk by direct hit, thought to be HALCYON (SALAMANDER 0931/1).
KEITH	Disabled and abandoned was bombed while attempting to rescue survivors. Request KEITH be destroyed. (SALAMANDER 0915/1). KEITH is not to be destroyed (V.A., Dover, 1141/1 to all ships) Sunk. (V.A. Dover 2022/2)..
MASHOBRA	Important she be salved or if not as much MNBDO equipment as possible (V.C.N.S.1509/31 to F.O. Narvik).
STELLA DORADO)	A/S trawlers sunk by enemy M.T.B. near T.
)	buoy about 0100. (V.A., Dover, 1326/1).
ARGYLLSHIRE.)	Only additional concrete evidence is that an A/C was present when both ships were sunk and that flare was used. (V.A., Dover, 1805/1).
VIVACIOUS	Damaged by bomb 1/6 during evacuation (V.A., DOVER 0022/2).
ALBURY	dO.
HEBE	do.
SALTASH	do.
WESTWARD HO	do.
SANDOWN	Damaged by shell fire 1/6 during evacuation. (V.A. Dover 2022/2).

War Diary.

1.6.40.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

WHITEHALL) VENOMOUS) WORCESTER) MALCOLM) EXPRESS) SHARP-) SHOOTER)	Damaged in collision or on wreckage 1/6 during evacuation (V.A., Dover, 2022/2, 0455/2).
BRIGHTON BELLE	Sunk in air attack 1/6 during evacuation (V.A., Dover 0455/2).
MOSQUITO	Gunboat, sunk, air attack, during evacuation (V.A., Dover 0022/2).
GRIVE	Sunk probably mined 1/6 during evacuation (V.A., Dover 0455/2).
BRIGHTON QUEEN	Paddle M/S sunk by shore battery (D.C.N.S., 272).
1 Trawler.	do.
ST. FAGEN	~~Towed~~ Tender to EXCELLENT sunk off Dunkirk (do).

Foreign Stations.

BRITISH INVENTOR	Due Capetown 29/5 not arrived (S.O.(I) Capetown 1108/1).

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

S.S.ASTRONOMER Sunk.	With boom defence gear for Scapa sank about 0420/2 in 57°55'N, 1°50'W., following 3 explosions at 2153/1 GMT. No degaussed. No indication of S/M except contact obtained by A/S trawler STOKE CITY after ship sank about 0420. (C-in-C., Rosyth 2000/2, Wick Radio 2224/1).
S.S. RABAUL	British. Due Capetown 1/6. Not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1048Z/2).

War Diary

1.6.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

General

Berthing Allied and Neutral M.V.'S

Not to be placed near any points of vital importance when this can be avoided. Italian ships may attempt to block ports by scuttling themselves and should be regarded with particular suspicion. Suggest methods of dealing with threat. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2225/1)

North Atlantic

REKUM
RUDOLF ALBRECHT

German tankers REKUM and RUDOLF ALBRECHT are at Tenerife and sailing may be imminent. PATROCLUS to patrol and intercept. French sloops BOUGAINVILLE and D'IBERVILLE are now near Canary Islands. (F.O.C.N.A. to PATROCLUS 2334/1)

A.M.C's

Admty. 2301/31 Remain on Patrol A.F. unless or until you receive other orders from C. in C., Western Approaches. ASTURIAS sails for U.K. at 2000/1. CARINTHIA sails for U.K. at 2030/1 (F.O.C.N.A. 1702/1 to CHESHIRE)

French Positions

1200/1 (D.C. 0003/1)

Cables

No evidence of deliberate cutting in cables so far reported by MIRROR. Waiting until present U-Boat activity subsides before continuing repairs. (F.O.I/C Gib. 1712/31)

South Atlantic

MIRAGLIA

Please confirm She landed 44 aircraft at Benghesi (D.N.1. 1747/1 to Consul, Benghesi)

Convoy C.M

R.V. (C. in C., S.A. 0944/1)

Italian Preparations

Italian ships now in harbour are bunkering much larger quantities of coal and oil than normally. (N.A. Buenos Aires 1230/1)

War Diary

1.6.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

EGITTO — 3220 G.T. reported left Brindisi 29th May with Troops, Airmen and Lorries. Destination unknown. (I.C. 0468/40)

ARBOREA — 4959 G.T. reported left Syacuse 29th May for Libya with 1000 or possibly 2000 Militia Shock Troops. (I.C. 0468/40)

Marseilles — German aircraft bombed Marseilles today. s.s. ORFORD reported hit. (D of I Air Ministry to Adty. No T.O.O./1)

Aircraft — Your 1851/29 and 1231/30. It is not possible to provide more aircraft. Air Ministry are arranging for spare engines.

M/Sweepers — Situation at home precludes sending you more fast sweepers at present. Two LL Trawlers are being sent out at once. Admty. 1029/1 to C.in C., Med.)

Shipping to Sail — All British and Norwegian Ships in Suez Canal Area bound for destinations through the Red Sea and now ready to sail are to do so forthwith. (Admty. 1932/1 to C. in C. Med)

Italy — Appreciation of situation 7 or 8 troop-ships available 42 cargo vessels over 2000 tons in Genoa. Report D 3 of intention to lay mines between Elba andSardinia (N.A. Rome, 2300/1)

East Indies

Submarines off Ras Hafun — C. in C. East Indies reports 3 s/ms were recently reported off Ras Hafun showing numbers 15 G One, and 18 G One. Can you identitify. Ends. Submarines are not German, Dutch or French. Have you any confirmation that they may be Italian. (D.O.I.C. 1922/1 to C.O.S. NILE)

War Diary

1.6.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

H X 47 — Sailing delayed 24 hours in view of reports of submarines off Halifax. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1152/1)

DUNEDIN — Programme (C. in C., A.W.I. 1031/1)

Precautions when intercepting — In view of renewal of enemy raider activity. H.M. Ships must take every precaution when intercepting merchant ships however innocent their outward appearance, and always bear in mind possibility of torpedoe attack. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1042/1)

Whale Catchers — Norwegian whale catchers refuse to proceed to U.K. unless armed or in convoy. Guns not available locally. (Cdr. D'Kyd Halifax. 1230/1)

China

Ships suitable for Naval use. — For bargaining with Japan (Adty 0017/23/5) List. (C. in C., 0517Z/1)

Italian Preparations — Various indications, not necessarily significant (C.O.I.S. Singapore 1601Z/31)

Hainan — Re rumours of Japanes concentration. French aircraft saw no signs of activity. Trend of transports and warships during past fortnight has been northerly from Hainan. (C. in C., China 03482/1)

War Diary

1.6.1940.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

At Bergen	Aircraft observed about fifty M/V's moored very closely together, some tied to quay; average tonnage 3/4000 (Donibristle to Adty. 1130/1)
REKUM RUDOLPH ALBRECHT	German Tankers are at Tenerife loaded with fuel. Considered sailing may be imminent. Orders to PATROCLUS. French authorities asked to keep close watch on Tenerife. (F.O.C.N.A. to PATROCLUS 2334/1)
METEOR	Norwegian 3718 G.T. Reported requisitioned as German Hospital Ship. (I.C. 0469/40)
TANNENFELS UCKERMARK	Observed still at Kismayu on 1st June.

War Diary

1.6.1940.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

SHEAFMEAD
Sunk (?date)
(?26/5)

British 5008 tons, sunk by enemy submarin 5 survivors landed by Greek FRANGOULA b. GOULANDRIS. The survivors on a raft, got alongside the submarine but were beaten off. The rest of the crew of 36 is thought to have been drowned. (Lloyds)

ASTRONOMER

Torpedoed at 2253/1 at 230° Kinnaird Head 22' and sunk. (I.C.O. 469/40) 8401 tons. Was taking boom defence gear to Scapa.

WIDGEON

Fired at by torpedo 51° 19'N 1° 53'E (WIDGEON 0044/1)

Submarines Reported

0100

Patrol report, Netherland S/M O. 13, submarine reported in O 13's 0100/1, believed to be a U boat, fired a recognition signal resembling 2 white very lights. O.13 dived as U-boat was in a favourable position for attack. U-boat apparently dived also as hydrophone effect disappeared. Probable that U-boat mistook 013 for another U boat owing to similarity in appearance. O.13 surfaced ten minutes later and made enemy report. Capt. S.5. 1558/1 (C. in C., Portsmouth, 0237/2)

Position 056° Cape Banfleur 24 miles B 3 (I.C. 0468/40) (S/M O.13. 0100/1)

Submarines Reported

0044/1

WIDGEON fired at by one Torpedo 51° 19'N 01° 53'E (WIDGEON to C. in C. Nore)

1136/1

North of Sogne Fjord. Position indefinite (I.C.0469/40)

0100/1

At 048° Ushant 48' Position indefinite. A.l. (I.C. 0469/40) 49° N 4° 10'W French report (Scapa W/T 0100/1)

Estimated Dispositions D.D.I.C. 1140/1

It is now thought that no U-Boats have been working off the Belgian Coast during the past week (N.I.D. 01507/39)

Submarines Attacked

2210

A/S Trawlers STOKE CITY, LEICESTER CITY Established contact and dropped 3 D/C's at 057. 56½'N 1.56'W (S.O. 30 Aux. A/S Vessels to F.O.C.O.S. 2210/1)

War Diary

2.6.1940.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT

Destroyers Off Skegness

At 0455 it was learnt at the Admiralty that bomber aircraft had sighted at 0250 3 destroyers steering east at high speed, 25 miles E. of Skegness. Three quarters of a mile from these destroyers were 3 larger vessels also steering E, and at 2359/1 4 large vessels type unidentified, steering S.E. showing considerable wash were sighted 10 miles N. of Terschelling. A squadron of torpedo bombers was sent to locate the ships off Skegness.

Mining

One magnetic mine has been exploded at Havre and one off Dover, and mines have been dropped in Weymouth Bay and round the Isle of Wight. It is estimated that over 60 aircraft were involved (Air Min. D.S. 320) Portland, Weymouth, Portsmouth, Cherbourg, and the Western entrance of Dover Harbour are closed.

Two magnetic and two contact mines have been exploded in the Narvik area; and moored mines are reported off Kinnaird Head.

Miscellaneous

Three Dutch cross channel steamers have been commissioned as Naval Transports with Dutch officers and men and are operating under C. in C., Western Approaches.

SS ORFORD (20,043 tons) which was bombed in Marseilles harbour yesterday has sunk.

War Diary

2.6.1940.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT

Ireland

An aircraft reconnaissance of the Irish Coast was carried out from Queenstown, west-about, to Sligo; and three A.M.C's are patrolling off the N.W. coast.

Evacuation of B.E.F.

The evacuation of the B.E.F. was completed at 2300/2 its last stages having been carried out during darkness; and at 0600/3 a total of 292,380 Troops had been landed in England, including 69,812 Allies, while 4500 Troops are on passage to U.K. from Cherbourg in four ships. There remain however 47,000 French Troops in the Dunkirk Area of which 25,000 are holding the defences; and at 1547/2 Admiral Nord requested that ships and air protection should be provided on nights of 2/3 and 3/4 June to enable all these to be evacuated. Two blockships have been sunk in Dunkirk harbour but the Channel is not completely blocked. During the final stages of the operation two trawlers and one Mine Recovery Drifter were sunk and two Hospital carriers and two A/S Trawlers were damaged. A total of eight Transports have now been lost and eight more disabled.

Norway

Enemy aircraft bombed Narvik, but were heavily attacked by our Fighters who suffered no losses and shot down six certain and probably seven more machines. The Germans are reported to be preparing an aerodrome at Nordjordeide at the head of Nordfjord 120 miles S.W. of Trondheim.

E Boats

Seven were attacked by our aircraft off the mouth of the Ems at about Noon; and between 2100 and 2200 one was attacked by aircraft off the Texel, one off the Hook, and three north of Zeebrugge, none of these attacks was successful.

Photgraphic air reconnaissance at 1900 showed there were possibly five E Boats at Ymuiden.

? German Aircraft Carrier.

Beauforts of No 22 Squadron sighted a submarine of unknown nationality at 2700 Terschilling 50 miles which submerged; and later sighted off Texel Island what appeard to be a very large vessel with no funnel and a flight deck escorted by 5 or 6 smaller vessels. Bergen was heavily bombed by our Coastal Command aircraft.

War Diary

2.6.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Precautions

Invasion Re Submarines reporting

Enemy may use shallow draft Lighters and M/Bs in addition to Transports and Warships for possible Invasion of England. If submarines encounter what may be enemy forces proceeding towards U.K. they must report first and then attack. If not proceeding towards U.K. attack first and then report. Term U.K. here includes Straits of Dover. (R.A.S. to S/M's on patrol 1817/2)

Invasion Re Bombers Reporting

As Germany may use both aircraft and surface vessels to invade England it is most importance that British bombers over North Sea should report all ships sighted at earliest moment possible without prejudicing bombers primary task. (Air Ministry to Bomber Commands 1530/2)

Training Aircraft to be organised

Am preparing organisation to enable Training aircraft to form Operating Squadrons in event of grave emergency, when should propose place them under operational control of Coastal Command. (R.A.N.A.S. to Adty 1746/2)

Southampton Water

Propose sink three 300' ships now in Southampton Water leaving deep water channel clear. (C. in C. Portsmouth to Admty. 1417/2)

Operations

Evacuation of B.E.F. From Dunkirk

Destroyers only to be used

In accordance with Adty. 2021/1 Evacuation up to 0700/2 is to be carried out using Destroyers only. Destroyers to be ready to open fire on any Batteries; and if channels found to be prohibitively dangerous by gunfire evacuation by day to cease and Adty. to be informed. (1 S.L. to V.A. Dover 0115/2)

Maximum number of Transports asked for

S.N.O. Dunkirk requests again maximum number transports for British and French at 2130/2) It is intended that all British shall be evacuated by midnight. (V.A.Dover 0402/2 to Admty)

Evacuation to Continue 3/4 June

It is confirmed that ships will be provided and air protection continued for evacuation on night 3/4 June if necessary. (V.C.N.S. to B.N.L.O. 2312/2)

War Diary

2.6.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Evacuation of B.E.F. from Dunkirk. Contd.

Protection Patrol

Four large M.T.B's to patrol tonight during darkness off Nieuport Harbour for E-Boats. (C.in C., Nore to F.O.I.C. Harwich 1616/2)

Rear-Guard

Endeavour embark Rear-Guard from Beach remaining after 0300 if necessary (V.A. Dover to Force K. (M/S) LOCUST 0338/2)

One Transport left Dunkirk at about 0245 nothing waiting outside when I left at 0306. (WINCHELSEA 0340/2)

Evacuated two miles Colne Canal from frontier yesterday at midnight. French holding remainder to Bergues and beyond (N.O. Dunkirk to N.O.I.C. Dover 0420/2)

About 5000 British. Before ammunition short. Sporting chance of embarking tonight. Maximum number of fast M/B's at inner end of long pier would assist. (S.N.O. Dunkirk to V.A. Dover 0830/2)

Final Evacuation Arrangements

Maximum number Transports, Destroyers, and M/S will evacuate from Pier and Harbour first ships arriving at 2100 remainder following at close intervals. French making own arrangements for embarking from Beach and West Pier in New Harbour. (V.A. Dover to S.N.O. Dunkirk 1251/2)

French still maintain front line except just East of Bergues where Germans have penetrated 2 miles on a 2 mile front. Counter attack being made at 1500. Port quiet. Situation hopeful. (S.N.O. Dunkirk to V.A.Dover 1545/2)

Fighters to be ready

Fighter patrols should be held available today to answer calls for help over Dunkirk on request of V.A.Dover (Air Min. 1300/2)

47,000 troops remaining. Rearguard to be taken off if possible.

French Adty. requested urgently by Admiral Nord that evacuation shall continue up to and including night 3/4 June. There remains 47,000 troops to evacuate, of which 25,000 are holding the defences whilst remainder await evacuation tonight.

All British troops will have been taken off by a.m./3. If British are prepared to continue the air protection and despatch of ships on nights 2/3, 3/4 the remaining 25,000 troops who by their defence of Dunkirk have made possible the evacuation of B.E.F. may then be taken off themselves. (B.N.L.O. Abbeville 1317/2)

War Diary

2.6.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Evacuation of B.E.F. from Dunkirk, Contd.

Rearguard

Admiral Nord reports that if during night 2/3 June 30,000 men can be evacuated he hopes during night 3/4 June to withdraw the 35,000 men holding the bridge head, whose evacuation would require the berthing of numerous vessels as well as Boats for the 6000 men on shore between Malo-les-Bains and Malo-Terminous. British Officers are leaving Dunkirk tonight 2/3 June, but will be required there during night 3/4 June. If this schedule carried out the blocking will take place at end of night 3/4 June. I will keep you informed of decisions and must ask for help of British M.T.B's as all French M.T.B's are damaged. (Adty to V.A. Dover 1610/2, reported 0118/3)

Counter Attack Postponed

French counter-attack postponed till 2000 hours. Remainder front quiet. (S.N.O. Dunkirk to V.A.Dover 1915/2)

Dunkirk Approach Channel under fire from guns (VENEMOUS to N.O.I.C. Dover 2110/2.

B.E.F. Evacuated

B.E.F. evacuated. Returning now. (S.N.O. Dunkirk to V.A.Dover 2330/2)

Operation C.K. (Blocking of Dunkirk)

Admiral Nord requests Block Ships arrive at entrance 0300 tomorrow night. He will signal if placing postponed. (V.A. Dover to Adty. 0604/2) Propose Block Ships be sent to outer Dunkirk 0300/3 as requested (V.A.Dover to Adty. 1255/2)

My 1600/31 Operation to be carried out forces sailing Downs about 1900/2 and expected arrive Dunkirk 0200/3. Owing to tide Block Ships cannot enter Dunkirk Harbour after 0330 on night 2/3 June. Final order to block to be given by Capt. Dangerfield who will enter Dunkirk ahead of forces and consult with Admiral Nord. (D.O.D.H. to V.A. Dover 1300/2)

War Diary

2.6.1940.
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HOME COMMANDS

Operation C.K. (Blocking of Dunkirk) Contd.

Admiral Nord states evacuation will not be completed during night 2/3. Blocking of Dunkirk must not take place for the moment. Ends. We hope, however, to complete evacuation tonight and blockships are being sent. Capt. Dangerfield has orders to arrange actual time with Admiral Nord (V.C.N.S. 1552/2 to S.N.O. Dunkirk)

Norway

Operation OA — Operation OA postponed 24 hours (F.O. Narvik, 1124/2)

Dummy Aerodromes — Dummy aerodromes with dummy aircraft have been erected in Stavanger and Oslo areas. (Air Ministry to H.Q. Commands 1700/2)

Alphabet — Alphabet postponed 24 hours (F.O. Narvik 1210/2 to C.inC., H.F., R.A.A.)

Bodo Evacuation — Bodo evacuation completed 0115/1 with success with Naval and air co operation in face of continuous German pressure by land and air attack. (F.O. Narvik 1500/2, 1502/2, 1504/2)

Submarines

Positions — 0600/3 (V.A. (S) 1823/2)

War Diary

2.6.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

British Air Activity

At 0915 aircraft bombed M/V 4000 tons name unknown at 58:10 N. 06:00 E. No damage observed. (Donibristle 1235/2).

Damage at Bremerhaven & Hambourg

The Master of a neutral ship says that the damage caused at Bremerhaven by our recent raids has badly damaged the shore loading cranes and caused a violent petrol explosion and set warehouses on fire, while the damage done to Hamburg is said to be even greater. (Daily Air Summary 319).

Enemy Air Activity

ALDERPOOL — Being attacked by enemy aircraft 50:00 N. 00:40 W. (C. in C., Portsmouth to Adty. 0013/3).

WORTHING
PARIS
(Hospital Carriers) — Hospital carriers have been bombed and severely damaged today by Germans in circumstances precluding mistake of their identity. (V.A. Dover to Adty. 2016/2).
PARIS sinking, 2 miles W. of Ruytingen Buoy (SABRE 2034/2).

CALCUTTA — Bombing 1035/2 to 1051/2 and 51° N. 1° E.
SHEARWATER — Bombing at 51:13 N. 02:00 E. (CALCUTTA 1156/2).

SPURS — A/S Trawler damaged by bomb. (VANQUISHER to F.O. Dover 1535/2).

MAX, VULCAIN, ELBE, THAMES — Belgian Tugs MAX 177 tons and VULCAIN 200 tons set on fire by aircraft and sunk; and two others ELBE 150 tons and THAMES 144 tons were holed by bombs and abandoned off Dunkirk (Daily Summary 272).

GREYNIGHT
KATREEN — Seven more British Fishing Trawlers attacked by aircraft between 0400/1 and 1200/2 in North Sea. Of these GREYNIGHT sunk, skipper killed and three wounded, and KATREEN leaking badly. (F.O. Humber to Adty. 1238/3).

LIBERIA — Trawler hit by bomb which failed to explode (I.C. 0471/40).

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

MONA'S QUEEN — My 2329/1 For MONA'S ISLE read MONA'S QUEEN. (V.A. Dover, 0605/2).

SLASHER — Six fishing Trawlers attacked by aircraft about 75 to 80 miles E ½ N. from Humber L/V between 1830 and 1930 1st June.
S/T SLASHER sunk, others damaged by bullets not seriously. (F.O. Humber, 1818/2).

One fishing trawler attacked 1930/1 at 54:30 N. 0:16:30 E. No casualties reported.
(F.O. Humber 1818/2).

Mining

Line of mines sighted 329° from position 163° JSBP 15 (ATHERSTONE to F.O.C.O.S. 1801/2)

One Blue Mine exploded 153° Knuckle I.
(V.A. Dover, to Adty. 2002/2).

One German "Y" type Mine swept at 51:24:40 N. 01:46:30 E. (C. in C. Nore to Adty. 2351/2).

Floating Mine reported 51:09 N., 02:07 E.
(SALTASH to V.A. Dover 0400/2).

Enemy Intelligence

E. Boats — One large vessel and large number E. Boats bearing 091 distance 12 miles course 120 position 091 Bircham Newton 130 (aircraft No. 206 Sqdn. to V.A.S. 0900/2). Cancel (C. in C., Nore 1250/2).

3 destroyers
3 large ships
4 do. — Aircraft report at 0250 three destroyers and three large unidentified ships 25' E. of Skegness steering E. high speed; also at 2359 four large vessels 10' W. of Terschelling steering 240. (D.C. to Area A. 0530/2).

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

3 large ships At 0000/2 3 large ships steering E. were reported 10 miles N. of Terschelling. (I.C. 0469).

1 E. boat 1 E.boat at 52:01 N., 04:00 E. course 340° speed 28 knots at 2030/2. (A/C 220 Sqdn. to Chatham 2030/2).

3 E.boats 3 E.boats course 215 bearing 045 distance 2 miles from 51:40 N. 03:22 E. (A/C 220 Sqdn. to Chatham 2125/2).

Miscellaneous

Enemy War Motor Boats are always to be described officially as "E" boats. (Adty. Message 1936/2).

Weather

	Wind	Weather	Visibility
North Sea	W. light to moderate fresh locally in N.	Occasional rain with some patches of mist or fog.	Moderate to good.
Horns Reef	W. light to moderate.	Cloudy with some patches of fog.	Generally good except in fog.
Channel	N. light.	Fair to cloudy some fog in extreme W.	Generally good except in fog.
Western Approaches	Light and variable.	Fair to cloudy some fog.	Generally good except in fog.
Norwegian Coast	W. or S.W. moderate	Occasional rain.	Moderate to good.

War Diary

2.6.40.
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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

S.S. WINGA and JERNLAND	WINGA sunk in collision with JERNLAND half mile N.E. of 20 Buoy. Latter picked up survivors. (LONDONDERRY to C. in C., Rosyth 0149/2).
PARIS (Hospital carrier)	Taking to boats position W.Buoy 1818 G.M.T. (North Foreland Radio to Admiral Chatham 2/6). Badly damaged, engines useless (N. Foreland Radio 1810).
S.S. ORFORD sunk	20,043 tons bombed and sunk in Marseilles Harbour 1/6 (D.C.N.S. 273).
LORD CAVAN	H.M. Drifter, lost. All crew saved and being sent Lowestoft (N.O. Ramsgate to Adty. 1410/2).

War Diary

2.6.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French Positions convoys, Patrols, and Passage at 1300/2. (Adty. to C. in C., W.A. 0026/2.

Sal

St. Vincent reports Portuguese Govt. has ordered warships to Sal and has stopped supplies of building materials and petrol to the island. (S.O.I. Freetown to D.N.I. 1915/2).

Portuguese destroyer TEJO expected sail 2/6. Destruction believed St. Vincent. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon to Adty. 1245/2).

U-Boats

Estimated dispositions. (Adty. to Areas A & B 1216/2).

Mediterranean

Attack on Ireland

Information received that German soldiers in civilian clothes are embarking at Naples for Spain whence they will be sent from Cadis for attack on Ireland. (N.A. Rome to D.N.I. 1224/2) See Comment in I.C. 0471/40.

S.S. ORFORD sunk

British S.S. ORFORD 20,043 tons was bombed and sunk in Marseilles Harbour this a.m. (D.C.N.S. 273) (Note date of attack was 1/6, possibly sank 2/6).

Greek Warships

4 destroyers of HYDRA class ordered to Milos tomorrow. A destroyer patrol between Crete and Cape Maleas may be begun. (N.A. Athens to Alexandria 1900/2).

Italian preparations

Naples reported (B.1) to have been practically in military control since 22/5 for embarkation and disembarkation of troops and stores. Further report (C.3) states all Italian goods in Genoa Harbour to be sent inland. (N.A. Rome to D.N.I. 1727/2).

The tanker FEDE, 7884 tons, with full cargo of oil was ordered to sail from Galveston full speed for Naples. (Daily Summary 272).

War Diary

2.6.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Troops for Jamaica

Important to get troops to Jamaica as early as possible both from political point of view and to provide guard for German prisoners of war ex merchant ships in Dutch W.I. who will be transferred to Jamaica. Escort of LADY DRAKE (troops to Iceland) can be effected about 8/6. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1611/2).

Submarine

Captain H.M.C. Dockyard Halifax requested report details, of submarine reported from Halifax W/T station to be at 044:28 N. 063:27 W. at 0914/1. (C. in C., N.A.W.I. 0942/2).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

One M/V about 4000 tons at 290° Lindesnes 35' at 0915/2. Bombed. No damage observed. (I.C. 0470).

War Diary

2.6.1940.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

POLYGARP — British s.s. torpedoed by U-boat at 0358 G.M.T. at 49.52'N 05.35'W Crew rescued by French steamer (Lands End Radio to Admiral Plymouth 0701/2)

BLACKBURN ROVERS WESTELLA — Sunk at 1618/2 and 1745/2 respectively at 98° North Foreland 24', probably by U-boat.

Submarines Reported

0510 — By aircraft 30' Fair Isle S.E.

0400 — By trawler 54.2'N 1.42'E (095° Falmborough Hd.) 133/IC 0470/40)

0905 — Possible periscope reported from shore S.E. Blyth 3' 55.6'N 1.28'W B 4 (I.C. 0470/40)

1230 — By ROCHESTER 51.36'N 06.05'W (240° St. David's Head) (I.C. 0470/40) (ROCHESTER 1230/2, 1615/2)

1700 — By aircraft Trawler SAON 24'E by S. of North Foreland.

0600 — Submarine position 49.32'N 05.35'W (Oussant Radio 0600/2)

0950 — Submarine sighted by aircraft No 22 Squadron at 53.33'N 03.49'E (aircraft 22 Squadron 0950/2)
S.O. 30 A/S Group reports contact with S/M 57.56½N 01.56'W. (C. in C., Rosyth to MACRI 0024/2)

0640 — Suspected U-Boat 57.28'N. 1.04'W (C in C H.F. to ATHERSTONE 1050/2)

0342 — 42.N 14.W 256° Finisterre 230' Position indefinite A.l. (I.C.0469)

1330 — 52.00'N 06.15'W Reported by British Tanker SAN ARCADIO.

1600 — 104° N. Tyne Pierhead Light 5½ miles. By aircraft (F.O. Tyne 1604/2) Report not reliable (F.O. Tyne 1653/2)

Submarines Attacked

0725 — Suspected U-Boat bombed by aircraft 30' East of Buchan Ness (D.C.N.S. 273)

Early A.M. — Three Destroyers hunted a reported U-Boat off Aberdeen (D.C.N.S. 273)

0606 — MACRI dropped D/Cs at 146° Fair Island 30' No results reported.

War Diary

3.6.1940.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT

Ireland

Reliable information received by Inspector General of R.V.C. states that six persons landed recently from a U-Boat at Minehead between Dungarvan Harbour and Youghal Bay and were met by members of I.R.A.

Evacuation of B.E.F. from Dunkirk

The evacuation of the Rear-Guard of about 30,000 Troops proceeded during the night 3rd/4th. British Destroyers, Personnel, Vessels and Paddle Minesweepers embarked Troops from the East Pier; other British and French vessels worked from the West Pier of the outer port; and small craft used the Inner Harbour and ferried Troops to vessels waiting outside. Rear Admiral Dover controlled the movements of ships from a M.T.B; and at midnight 3rd/4th a total of 301,216 Troops had been landed in England from the port since the 26 May when the operation began, of whom 211,858 were British fit, 13,053 British wounded, 64,675 Allied fit, and 1,230 Allied wounded. A thick fog off Dover delayed the arrival of French Troops, and poor visibility prevented enemy aircraft activity; but since the operation began 259 enemy aircraft have certainly been brought down and 143 more probably, while the British aircraft losses have been 98 machines in all. Two more Blockships have been sunk in the main channel at Dunkirk, and a third was sunk by magnetic mine. There were no casualties to H.M. ships during the evacuation period today; and Admiral Nord has arrived at Dover in a M.T.B.

The total losses of Ships during the evacuation have been six Destroyers, one Fleet Minesweeper, one Gunboat, one F.A.A. Tender, five Paddle Minesweepers, eight Trawlers, three Drifters, two armed Boarding Vessels, one dan-laying Vessel, one Minesweeper, and one Tug.

Havre

Was heavily bombed at 2115/3, petrol tanks being set on fire and damage reported at several points.
The French FURFINA, 603 tons, was sunk by mine in the main channel at 1600/3 but was towed clear of the channel before sinking.

Dieppe

French minesweepers are now operating. There is every indication that the enemy laid further mines during the last two nights. D.S.T. reports that AA guns are essential before the port is opened.

War Diary

3.6.1940.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT Contd.

Mining

One magnetic mine has been exploded off Dover. Harwich (mined 31 May/1 June) is temporarily closed; but Portsmouth, Portland, Weymouth, Cherbourg, and the Western entrance of Dover Harbour were opened p.m./3 after enemy minelaying last night.

The Harwich Examination Steamer was mined and sunk.

A new type of magnetic mine, (apparently mass-produced) was dropped by parachute at Pontrieux near the French Coast. The second dropped exploded, but the first is being examined at Brest.

Two parachute magnetic mines, at first thought to be bombs, were dropped in Sussex during the night 2/3.

British Air Activity

Morning and dusk patrols were flown over the Dunkirk area; and Fighter protection for shipping in the straits began at 0415 Little enemy opposition was encountered. At 1730 aircraft reported an unidentified Cruiser off Haugesund (Norway) proceeding North; and at 2115 six E Boats were sighted off the Scheldt and were attacked by three 250 lb bombs all of which failed to explode.

Paris Bombed

Chartres, Paris, Villacoublay and Le Bourget were bombed. It is estimated that 100 aircraft took part. Citroen Works near Paris were damaged and Chartres Paris railway and road were damaged and are out of action. (B.N.L.O Paris 1900/3)

U-Boats

A U-Boat on the surface was bombed off Berwick at 0800/3 and at 0900/3 was again seen stationary on the surface.

War Diary

3.6.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Landing Beaches — Reconnaissance of coast from Southampton to Solway to determine beaches possible for the landing of tanks direct from barges or special craft will be carried out forthwith. Co-operation with R.N. and R.A.F. will be arranged. (H.O. for 0140/3).

Dundee — Electrically controlled depth charges now laid (N.O.I.C. Dundee, 2330/3).

Humber — Ships in harbour appear very exposed to attack by M.T.B.'s either alone or in conjunction with aircraft. If Humber is to be used as base for any length of time, anti-M.T.B. defence is an urgent requirement. Even a dummy boom would be of some value. (C.S. 18, 1224/3).

Night trawling — Eastern Command request night trawling by fishermen off Norfolk and Suffolk coasts be prevented in view of danger of foreign craft mixing with our trawlers and getting ashorewards in their company (~~H.O.Ho~~for, 2245/3).

Norfolk Broads — Nearly 2,000 power boats are operating daily in Norfolk Broads area for pleasure or profit. Considered possible hiring by enemy agents or perhaps capture by enemy after an aerial landing might prove a serious menace. Recommend none be allowed to run without a special licence and those laid up be grouped in selected areas with essential machinery parts removed. I gather that N.O.I.C. Yarmouth has power to give such orders and am directing him to proceed accordingly. (C. in C., Nore, 1210/3).

Enemy Raiders — Repeating precautionary advice when intercepting of merchant ships, in view of renewal of enemy raider activities. (A.C.W.A. 2041/3).

Ports — Re immobilisation and demolition - differentiation suggested. (C. in C., Nore, 1130/3).

War Diary

3.6.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Submarines — Position 0600/4. (V.A.S. 1709/3, D.C. 2020/3).

Operations

Evacuation of B.E.F.

Plans — Intentions for tonight June 3-4. Maximum effort with all available remaining vessels between 2230/3 and 0230/4. We shall send ships to entire length of Eastern Jetty as quickly as possible capable of accommodating 14,000 men. We will assist with ships at the Western Jetty in the Avant port to extent of accommodation for 5,000 men. In addition French ships will be responsible for evacuation from the Malo Beach, Quai Felix Faure and the new Avant port for which cannot estimate number. Essential troops must be at point of embarkation at the times stated in adequate numbers. Shall leave landing officer and men on Eastern Jetty. M.T.B. will be at your disposal from 2200. Would be deeply grateful if special arrangements could be made to evacuate as many British wounded as possible in return for British effort on behalf of French troops. (V.A. Dover to Admiral Nord, 1108/3).

Tugs Disposal — Adty. 2321/1. Amended instructions for disposal of tugs and lighters requisitioned for Operation. (D. of S.T. 0748/3).

Destroyers Disposal — On completion of operation Dynamo destroyers taking part are to be sailed for their home ports, where they should remain to comply with Adty. 2339/1 and make good minor defects. (D.D.O.D.(H) 2046/3).

CALCUTTA — As withdrawal from Dunkirk tonight 3/4 is planned for 0230 instead of 0300. I do not propose to employ CALCUTTA as A/A escort. (V.A. Dover 1419/3)

War Diary

3.6.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Evacuation of B.E.F. (Contd.)

Plans

Dunkirk evacuation tonight Monday. From East Pier by personnel vessels, destroyers and paddle minesweepers. From West Pier new outer port by other minesweepers, corvettes, skoots and French vessels. Drifters and smaller craft inner harbour. All ships to leave by 0230/4. H.M.S. LOCUST will remain outside entrance receiving loads ferried out by small boats. Tugs will be available outside Dunkirk. (V.A. Dover to Force K, LOCUST GUILLEMOT, KINGFISHER, 1440/3).

Berthing

Orders to ships for berthing, evacuation tonight. (F.O.I.C. Dover, 1542/3) Amended 1802/3).

R.A. Control

R.A. Dover, will be in M.T.B. 102 tonight, display red and green vertical light, and will control traffic and movement in Dunkirk Harbour. (V.A. Dover, 1730/3).

Numbers

Nearly all British Forces were withdrawn Dunkirk by 2300/2. Total landed U.K.:-

British, fit	209,564
British, casualties	13,004
Allies, fit	69,017
Allies, casualties	795
Total	292,380

(D.N.I. (Natel), 2030/3).

At noon, 3/6, the total had reached 305,078 - British, 211,137 fit and 13,004 casualties, Allied, 79,808 fit and 1,129 casualties. (D.S. 4/6).

Evacuation, French Coast

Cherbourg

Position 0900. Enemy aircraft heard to seaward 0130. Port open, quays etc. intact. No indication of mine dropping near here but this a.m.'s incoming convoy, which was directed to Brest except for 1 ship arrived safely and will be ready to leave this evening with another if they can be accepted in U.K.; there will be about 2,300 troops left over from those due for passage today. (B.N.L.O., Marceau, 1145/3).

Position 1730. No air raids, port open. Traffic normal all waiting troops probably leave tomorrow. (B.N.L.O. Marceau, 2100/3).

HOME COMMANDS.

Evacuation, French Coast (Contd.)

Le Havre — Continued sweeping inside harbour barrage. No mines exploded. French vessel blown up at 1600 and sank by mine in main channel, towed clear of channel before sinking. (B.N.L.O. Marceau, 2110/3). (See also Air).

Dieppe — Following from D.S.T.O. Dieppe. French M/S now operating. Every indication that further enemy mines laid last two nights. After conference with military, submit A/A guns essential before opening port. (B.N.L.O. Marceau, 1905/3).

Operation C.K. (Blocking of Dunkirk)

Operation C.K. completed. 2 block ships sunk between breakwaters but regret obstruction of channel not achieved. (VIVACIOUS 0400/3).

Operation to be repeated tonight 3/6, forces sailing from Downs about 2000. Expected time of arrival Dunkirk Roads 0130/4. (D.O.D.H. 1158/3).

Operation C.K. with orders dated June 2 is being repeated with 24 hours delay. (D.O.D.H. 1201/3).

Admiral Du Nord approves completion of blocking tonight. (V.A. Dover, 1659/3).

Ymuiden

Blockships at entrance exactly as reported previously. South Outer Canal appears to be blocked by sunken small craft. There has been more movement of barges in the harbour since previous sortie than has been the case in other Dutch ports. Foundry of Works north of harbour appears to be working fully, barge movement may be connected with this. Apparent fast passenger vessel 300 ft. long lies in one of northern bays. (Aircraft 0450/3).

War Diary

3.6.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Narvik

DEVONSHIRE — Sailed for patrol to northward of Tromso pending further information (F.O., I.C.S., 0730/3)

Harstad — Arrivals 3/6. (R.A. Narvik, 2006/3).

Aerodromes — Lakselz otherwise Banak is available for use whenever required. Ample landing area. Temporary obstructions to prevent possible enemy landings can be cleared at short notice. Am asking F.O. Narvik to reconnoitre Military Aerodrome near Nyborg. I should appreciate information regarding object of Swordfish activities in that area. (R.A.F. H.Q. Norway to Air Min. 0040/3).

Iceland

Would be glad to know whether I can count on receiving a certain number of hours notice of any enemy movement by sea or air on Iceland. Unlikely to obtain much warning from observers as enemy aircraft expected to keep well to seaward until close to objective. Any information that point would assist me to formulate plan. My one aircraft temporarily out of action, can decision now be given reference to flying boats. (Aldbaster, Reykjavik, 1729/1, to War Office, Recd. from War Office at 2015/3).

War Diary

3.6.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

AIR

British Air Activity

Reconnaissance

Over Statlandet from 1540. At 1650, wireless station bombed and machine gunned in 60.50'N, 4.40'E.
At 1735 cruiser class unknown, sighted in 59.14 N., 5.09 E (Denibristle, 2000/3)

Over Wilhelmshaven from 1200/3. 2 torpedo boats possibly WOLF class, 3 patrol craft probably M.T.B's. Hipperhafen, 1 minelayer gunnery training (probably BRUMMER or sister ship) 2 M.T.B's unknown number M.T.B's at Pier dry dock. Tirpitzhafen empty, no U/m's in Canal, much activity small motor boats (Air Min., 2359/3)

Enemy Air Activity

ALDER POOL

British, attacked 49.43N., 00.25'W (ALDERPOOL, 0015/3) Position given as 50.00 N., 0040'W (C. in C. Portsmouth 0013/3)

WINCHELSEA

Machine gunned 135° North Goodwin 15 m (WINCHELSEA 0059/3)

Le Havre

Heavy air raid about 2115. Petrol tanks ablaze, DESMARAIS and C.I.M. on South Pier, cotton shed, iron works, and previous points in town. (N.C.S.O., Le Havre, 2230/3)

A/C Destroyed by ALDERSFORD

At 0025/3, during a raid by minelaying aircraft, an enemy machine flying about 1 mile E. of Warner light vessel at a height of 700 feet was engaged by H.M.S. ALDERSFORD. There was a very heavy explosion and it is believed mine was exploded by 12 pdr. shell and aircraft destroyed. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1937/3).

Mines on Sussex

Two parachute magnetic mines were dropped near Forest Row, Sussex by enemy aircraft 3/6.

Minelaying

60 aircraft were employed in minelaying between Dungeness and the Isle of Wight. (J.I.C.6).

War Diary

3.6.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Ports closed — Due to aircraft minelaying last night, Portsmouth Weymouth, Portland, Dover western entrance and Cherbourg are closed (I.C.0476/40, Adty. 0806/3, V.A. Dover 0341/3).

Ports open — Cancel my 0327/3. Port is now open. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1433/3) Western entrance of Dover Harbour, Portland, Weymouth and Cherbourg are also open. (V.C.N.S. 274).

Cherbourg — Possibility of Mines laid off Cherbourg. (P.M. Cherbourg to Adty. 0152/3).

Have just sunk Floating mine 51:16 N. 1:46:8 E. (ALBURY to V.A. Dover 0422/3)

Enemy Mining — One magnetic mine has been exploded off Dover. (V.C.N.S.)

Dover Barrier, Minelaying — Desired to mine Dover Barrier as close as possible to French Coast. Consider can be done by submarine with less risk than destroyers. Propose PORPOISE and NARWHAL working from Portsmouth. (D.O.D.(H) to C. in C. H.F., V.A.S., V.A. Dover, 2049/3) PORPOISE and NARWHAL will be available. (V.A.S., 2221/3).

Night Sweeping — Probable that enemy will lay parachute mines in our harbour entrances after dark on night that expedition starts. Essential that sweepers should be able to clear the entrances at once so that our warships can sail without delay. Organisation for night sweeping to be prepared at each port where warships likely to be based. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1912/3).

Cruiser — Sighted by aircraft in 59.14'N, 5.09'E class unknown (Donibristle, 2000/3) C. in C., Rosyth 2336/3)

M.T.B's — 6 in position 51.45 N., 3.15 E at 2113 course 225, speed 20 knots (Nore W/T, 2335/3) Were unsuccessfully attacked by 3 250 lb bombs, all of which failed to explode. (V.C.N.S.)

1½ — 3 in position 51.40'N 3.27'E at 21 20/2 course 240° Bombed and machine gunned, damage unknown, no hits. After bombing M.T.B's changed course, one believed to have turned into channel N. of Schouwen. (Chatham 0050/3)

War Diary

3.6.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence Contd.

M.T.B's Contd.

1 Attacked in 52.1'N 4.0'E at 2135/2 not hit (Chatham 0050/3)

1 Bombed 2130/2 in 53.10'N 4.35'E course 030° Not hit (Chatham 0100/3)

LUTZOW

(EX DEUTSCHLAND) confirmed that she returned to Kiel about 13/4 or 14/4 with stern badly damaged (B.V.S.C. 39)

Destroyer

1 bombed at Ymuiden at 0811 No hits (I.C. 0471)

SS DEUTSCHLAND
SS EMDEN
SS BREMEN

Am informed by Swedish Salvage Captain that three Enemy Transports sunk early April and still visible are off Aalborg DEUTSCHLAND 21,000 tons and EMDEN 700 tons and off Aarhus BREMEN 50,002 tons, report confirmed from another source. (Acting Consul Malmo 0010/3 to Puckich)

WEATHER

AREA	WIND	VISIBILITY	OUTLOOK
North Sea	S.W. moderate or fresh in North. Variable light elswhere.	Good or Moderate, fog patches.	Similar
Channel & Western Approaches	Easterly light	Good or Moderate Fog Patches	Similar
Horns Reef	N.W. Light or moderate	Moderate or Poor, fog patches	Visibility improving
Dutch Coast	Variable Light	Good	Similar
Norwegian Coast	N.W. Light in S. S.W. moderate in North	Moderate or poor in South Good in North	Visibility Deteriorating in North.

War Diary

3.6.1940.
Monday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

BLACKBURN ROVERS
WESTELLA
Sunk

Reporting following casualties yesterday (Sunday) during Operation Dynamo. Sunk by torpedo, BLACKBURN ROVERS, WESTELLA, (V.A.Dover, 0325/3)

MOK I

The Dutch Queen's ship was lost 3/6 off Dunkirk. 3 of crew landed at Dover. It is believed that 10 others were also saved.

EMMA

Swedish s.s., sunk in position 102° South Foreland lighthouse 1.2 miles after collision with s.s. HEBE. Request promulgation of wreck which may be dangerous to navigation. (V.A.Dover, 0130/3)

Ship on Fire

Shore reports of ship on fire 5' S.E. of Beachy Head at 2120 (C. in C. Portsmouth 2124/3 to FOXGLOVE)

War Diary

3.6.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French — French positions 1200/3 (Admty to C. in C., W.A. 0200/3) do 1200/4 (D.C. 2358/3)

Patrols — Patrols A.F. to A.K. off Spanish Coast cancelled and Areas 1, 2 and 3 substituted (details) (D.C., 0756/3)

Vigo — Number of young Germans noticed in Vigo increased in last few days and is arousing comment. No change in ships except that U.S.A. RAMO has been repainted and looks less light. (Vigo 1008/3)

Italian Destroyers, Ceuta — Have received report from Admiral Africa, that 3 Italian destroyers intend to visit Ceuta shortly. Situation at Tangier already delicate owing to large number of Italians there and the presence of Italian destroyers in these waters seems to me most undesirable in present conditions. Suggest enquiry be made of Spanish Govt. (F.O.C.N.A., 1248/3)

Mediterranean

Italy- Air — Reported that Italians are developing a gliding torpedo or bomb for attack on large distant objectives. (Hd. of M., 1708/3)

ARGUS — To be sailed for Gibraltar as soon as practicable. F.O.C.N.A. to assist in provision of destroyer escort. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., Med. 1758/3)

Flying Boats — 1 Sunderland Sqdn. from Western Approaches consisting of 4 I.E. plug 2 I.R. Sunderlands to proceed to Alexandria (Air Min. 1305/3)

Leghorn — Orders have been given at Leghorn that all merchandise on sea-front and customs are to be cleared before 15 June. Preparations for war continue. (N.A. Rome to D.N.I. 1644/3)

East Indies

Convoys B.C., C.M. — KENT to escort Convoy B.C. to Durban and Convoy C.M. from Durban to Mombasa. (C. in C. E.I. 1503Z/3)

Masulipatam — Propose Port Masulipatam be instituted a class 2 routeing port and port officer appointed as reporting officer. Govt. of India have no objections. (F.O.C., R.I.N. 1049Z/3)

War Diary

3.6.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Troops for Iceland

To be transported in EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA escorted by EMERALD who will return to Halifax for T.C. 6.

T.C. 5.

REVENGE to escort as previously arranged. (A.C.N.S. (T) 2028/3)

A.M.C's

Your 1303/28. With limited number of A.M.C's available for convoy escort duties one additional vessel only can be spared which it is hoped will join your command about 21/6. Hoped to rectify limitations of CORMORIN when vessel is refitted in U.K. Your proposal concerning near junction position for H.X. and S.H.X. convoys is concurred in (D.O.D (F) 2029/3 to C.in C., A.W.I)

DUNEDIN

To assume duties of Flag Officer. Jamaica Force. C. in C. A.W.I, 1221/3)

French Cruisers

PRIMAUGUET sailed for Dakar today. JEANNE D'ARC, now at Halifax, relieves her. (C. in C., 1211/3)

EMILE BERTIN

Left Halifax 1730/3 direct to Brest. (F.O.C., 3 BS, 1833/3 to A.M.C's on patrol, 1032/4)

New Zealand

HECTOR

Requesting to consider withdrawal of HECTOR from New Zealand owing to increasing naval requirements in the Indian Ocean and Atlantic owing to attitude of Italy and closing of Mediterranean route. (D.O.D. (F) to New Zealand Navy Board. 1046/3)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

1540

One M.V about 700 tons 62.10'N 5.00'E Course 235° aircraft report (I.C. 0471)

China

BURGENLAND
ELSA ESSBERGER

Potential A.M.C's China, BURGENLAND docked on June 1. Previous docking on Dec 24. ELSA ESSBERGER docked May 30, undocked June 1. Both ships have full bunkers. (C.O.S., Singapore, 03012/3)

Ships in N.E.I.

Which were seized by the N.E.I. Authorities have been renamed and are being assembled at Batavia and Surabaya for overhaul List in BW 3G39

Mediterranean (Black Sea)

DELOS

Arrived (Macrae, Galatz, 1240/3)

War Diary

3.6.1940.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

PURFINA, Sunk

French Tanker (603 tons) was mined 1600/3 at Havre but was towed clear of the fairway before she sank at 1655. (V.C.N.S) (N.C.S.O. Havre, 1655/3)

Examination Steamer

Examination steamer mined and sunk today in approx. position 055° 2¾ cables from charted position of Outer Ridge Buoy (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1955/3)

Submarines Reported

0804

Reported by aircraft 123' Ely S. of Isle of May, Firth of Forth, (224 Sqdn. 0804/3)

0904

One submarine in sight 55.42'N 00.58' (? W. or E) (aircraft 224 Sqdn to H.Q. 0904/3)

0315

58.6'N 1.45'W aircraft report.

2118

55.54'N 3.56'E, aircraft report (aircraft 224 Sqdn 2140/3)

0840

51.41'N 10.17'W. Seen from shore off Kenmare River estuary in S.W. Ireland (D.A.S.W. 3 June)

2000

Oil strak at 58.16'N 03.42'W course 150 speed 3 knots (aircraft 612 Sqdn. to 18 Rec. H.Q. 2047/3)

0720

TRITON sighted a U-Boat 190 miles E. of Aberdeen (A.S.W.D. 273)

Estimate Dispositions

(D.D.I.C., 1202/3)

Submarines Attacked

0804

By aircraft 55.48'N 0.58'E Bombed (I.C. 0470/40)

0804

Bombed submarine, large oil patch (Duty Z 224 Sqdn. to Group H.Q. 0810/3 Position 55.58'N., 0.42' E or W. (C. in C., Rosyth 0954/3, 1102/3(WESTON was sent to continue hunt)

1915

58.16'N. 02.18'W Bombed. an oil streak (I.C. 0471, A.S.W.D. 273)

2118

55.54'N 3.56'E Bombed, no hits. (I.C. 047

War Diary.

4.6.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Defence of U.K. — Active steps are still being taken to improve and coordinate the defences of the U.K. against possible invasion.
The air reconnaissances for warning of approach of invading enemy forces have been rearranged and further patrols instituted.

Evacuation of B.E.F. from Dunkirk. — The evacuation ended at 1030/4, when the fleet of rescue ships was dispersed and the Germans entered Dunkirk. The final totals of troops withdrawn, excluding a considerable number of French troops still on passage, were 211,265 British fit, 13,055 British casualties, 109,942 Allied fit and 1,230 Allied casualties, or 335,490 in all. Only non-combatant troops were left behind; and two more Blockships were sunk at Dunkirk it is believed successfully.

Air. — Enemy aircraft were reported near Lowestoft, Yarmouth, Beachy Head and Selsey Bill before dawn and after dark on 4/6; it is presumed these flights were connected with minelaying.

Le Havre was bombed, and it is reported that aircraft laid mines off Cherbourg.

It is reported that Kirkenes was bombed with incendiary bombs on 3/4 and 4/6, considerable damage being caused.

Mining. — Mines were laid by enemy aircraft outside Cherbourg during the night 3/4 but all probably outside the swept channel. The port is open to treated ships.

"Gardening" still continues.

Mediterranean. — The RESOLUTION and ARETHUSA have left for Gibraltar.

Italian situation. — At 1941/4 the SICILIA, 9646 G.T., was sighted at 36°22'30" N. 23°14'E. carrying troops and steering 095°.

The Italia Line has resumed advertisement of transatlantic sailings, and the loading and sailing of Italian ships from Buenos Aires is stated to have recommenced. There were 15 Italian ships in U.K. ports to-day.

U-boats. — Aircraft attacked a U-boat off Kinnaird Head and the Lizard respectively and estimated one hit in each case.

~~Italian ships to be detained~~ — ~~Orders have been given that the Italian tankers and two other merchant ships carrying cargoes useful for war, are to be detained in Contraband Control Patrol~~

War Diary

5.6.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

80 Ships off Texal

At 0330/5 and aircraft reported fifty ships of unidentified type and size ten miles South of the Texel, steering south. Fog prevented further search.

Two enemy ships reported at sea.

Two unidentified vessels were reported to be proceeding westwards in a position 300 miles West of Trondheim at 1130. A flying boat was sent to locate them, but was recalled on account of low visibility before reaching the position. RENOWN, REPULSE, 2 cruisers and 5 destroyers left scapa at 2130 to intercept. The A.M.C's on Northern Patrol were ordered to move west and later to resume patrol. Early on 6/6 the ship originating the report stated that the vessels were probably merchant ships. The battles cruiser force is still still at sea.

Destroyers

C. in C., Nore has recommended that the destroyers of 20th D.F. should re-embark their guns for the present owing to shortage of destroyers, as we can now obtain the use of Dutch and French minelayers.

Invasion

An Appreciation refers to possibility of attack by tanks carried on small motor boats, and envisages the invasion of England not in terms of bases, covering forces, sea power etc., but as likely to be unorthodox and rapid, and carried out on a wide front. In photographs taken of Kiel on 7/4 it was noticed that a large number of peculiarly constructed barges were being built and that about 50 were already afloat (C. I. C. Report 6)

Mining

One delayed action mine has been destroyed two miles from No Mans Fort, Spithead; and four magnetic mines have been found off Cherbourg, where a Dredger has been sunk. Cherbourg and Havre are open, but Portsmouth, Newhaven, and Dieppe are closed.

Norway

See Operations Volume

Enemy Air Activity

Bombing attacks were made in the evening 4/6 and during the night 4/5 June at Le Havre which was heavily bombed and fires started and South of Dieppe. Attacks were also carried out S.W. and S.E. of Paris.

War Diary

5.6.1940
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT, Contd.

Success of Convoy System	In the first 9 months of war 23,000 ships were convoyed by the Navy with the loss of 32 ships by enemy action while in convoys. With the Germans holding one side of the Straits of Dover consideration must be given to the protection of convoys proceeding within sight of his batteries.
Raider	It was learnt today that a possible raider was sighted on 20/5 off French Guiana.
Western Front	The Germans began an attack on the Somme-Aisne line held by the Allies.

War Diary

4.6.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Seaham — Adty. 1903/2. Not intended to institute examination service at Seaham Harbour as arrangements for examination of Seaham bound vessels at Sunderland are satisfactory. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1216/4).

Kent Coast — Adty. 1956/28/5. E. and N. coasts Kent are in Army Section No. 1 though in Dover and Nore Commands. Suggest that N.O.I.C. Ramsgate be given charge of these coasts for L.D. Coast in Nore Command to extend from Swale to N. Foreland (C. in C., Nore 1244/4).

W. Coast of Scotland — Adty. 1903/2. There are many small ports in Rosyth Command on W. coast which could be used by enemy craft as visualised in para 1, and where there is no personnel immediately available for taking required precautions. As West coast ports have so far not been included in schemes prepared to counter attempted invasion request information whether arrangements required by your 1903/2 should apply to W. coast ports equally to those on E. coast. If so considerable extra personnel required and schemes for improvement of communications must be undertaken forthwith (C. in C. Rosyth 1143/4).

Immobilisation of Ports — Details of proposals for immobilising E. coast ports from Berwick to Scarborough inclusive. (F.O. Tyne, 1657/4 to Adty).

Minefield — Propose shallow moored Minefield be laid across two channels between South Falls and Long. 2° E. (V.A., Dover, 2019/4 to Adty.)

Marine Brigade — Request earliest possible transfer of Marine Brigade to operational control of C. in C. Home Forces for use in Liverpool and Harwich Areas. (C. in C., Home Forces 1207/4 to Adty.)

MIRIAM RAVELOTON — Allotted as blockships for Leith (D. of L.D. 1512/4).

Naval Establishments — Civilians on staff, who are willing, to be enrolled in L.D.V. for service in the establishment (1st Lord. 1605/4).

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K. (Contd.)

Norfolk Broads Your 1210/3. Order prohibiting navigation of power boats was made 1st June and comes into force 5th June. Organisation of grouping is proceeding. (N.O.I.C., Yarmouth, 1100/4, to C. in C., Nore).

Signal Co-ordination Adty. 1913/2. Apparent that co-ordination of signals between the three Services is necessary. Proposed meeting between representatives. (Nofor, 2015/4).

Southern Irishmen No more to be employed on Adty. contracts in Protected Area in North of Scotland. (Adty. 1549/4).

Movements

ARETHUSA To sail for Gib. forthwith. (V.C.N.S. 1030/4). Left Sheerness 1630 for Gib. Expects to arrive 1600/7 (C. in C., Nore, 1754/4, 1443/4, 1134/4) Reason (A.C.N.S.(F) 1928/5 to A.C.N.B.)

RESOLUTION To sail for Gib. screened by WOLVERINE, WITHERINGTON, VISCOUNT to position B (C. in C., H.F. 0026/4, 0903/4, C. in C., W.A. 1614/4, Reason A.C.N.S.(F), 1928/5).

ARGUS Adty. 1758/3. Anticipate ARGUS will sail 1500/5. (ARGUS 1105/4).

M.T.B. Flotillas Allocation (A.C.N.S.(H) 1212/4).

Dutch M/B M.73 Arrived Portsmouth from Belgian operation (C. in C., Portsmouth 2131/4).

Patrols Temporary patrols established in area North Goodwin L.V., R. buoy, U. buoy, by day and night. By A/S trawlers by night only. Details (V.A. Dover 1810/4).

NELSON Intend to sail NELSON for Clyde pm/5. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1133/4).

CARDIFF To join 2nd C.S. temporarily during absence of ARETHUSA (A.C.N.S.(H) 1119/4).

L.L. trawlers for Meditn. 2 to sail as soon as possible. (D.M.S. 1345/4).

War Diary

4.6.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

Submarines Positions 0600/5. (V.A.S. 1954/4, D.C. 2140/4).

Operations

Evacuation of B.E.F.

No known casualties to H.M. ships yesterday Monday during operation Dynamo. MEDWAY QUEEN reported missing in my 0856/31/5 has been located. (V.A. Dover 0352/4).

Adty. Communique on the 2100/3 news gave MONA's ISLE as sunk, instead of MONA'S QUEEN. Request correction (V.A. Dover 0436/4).

Dynamo completed. Ships and personnel to be dispersed in accordance with Adty. 2321/1, 1308/2, 0748/3. (V.A. Dover, 1035/4, Adty. 1423/4).

Final figures up to 1300/4 evacuated form Dunkirk:-

British	181,027	British wounded	2,335
French	119,210	Allied wounded	4,646
Total	307,218		

(V.A. Dover, 1405/4).

Operation C.K.

It is believed that Dunkirk harbour was successfully blocked on completion of the evacuation (D.C. 0814/4).

French Coast

Cherbourg Position 0930/4. Enemy laid mines outside port 0100/4. Wharves and quays intact. Port open to treated ships. Railway facilities intact. French Marine reports mines have been laid outside the port but are probably all clear of swept channel. Incoming convoy arrived safely. All troops waiting passage will be embarked today. (B.N.L.O. Marceau, 1110/4).

Please forward another section of minesweeping vessels for sweeping harbours Cherbourg, Havre and entrance into Rouen. Urgent (Cherbourg 1226/4).

Position 1730/4. Same as 0930/4. Two British L.L. sweepers arrived 1600 (B.N.L.O. Marceau, 1715/4).

War Diary

4.6.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway.

Movements etc. Asking for fighter protection to cover a certain movements of destroyers. Enemy troops reported 3/6 crossing from Festrag and Sorfold to Northward in fishing craft. Re small British armed vessel. Anticipate gladiators will be able to fly off from Bardufoss for certain purpose 0300/8 (F.O.I.C. Narvik 1050/4 to R.A.(A).)

Air

British Air Activity

Gardening For tonight. (H.Q.C.C. 1720/4).

Air Reconnaissance For 4/6 to locate small craft in which may be endeavouring to return to Ramsgate or Dover with allied troops. Similar reconnaissance at daylight 5/6. (V.A. Dover, 1333/4).

Invasion patrols. S.12, W.2. Anticipate that prior to invasion by sea the enemy will attempt diversion by sending warships to attack Northern Patrol or Narvik Shipping Route. Patrol called S.12 to be undertaken for observation. Continuous daylight is the ideal but at present 2 Sunderlands flying 2 circuits each daily is all that can be spared. Patrol W.2 to run daily to observe enemy vessels attempting to run Faeroe-Orkney Channel. (H.Q.C.C. 1225/4, C. in C., Rosyth 1526/4).

S.A.1.2.3 Reconnaissances reviewed for warning of approach of invading enemy forces have been ~~received~~ in light of present situation. Following amended scheme is to be undertaken daily from today. It is assumed that van guard of an invading force by sea may be transported by E. boats or destroyers (Donibristle 1125/4, C. in C., Rosyth, 1526/4).

Bombardment Policy Instructions governing, replacing those in Air Min. X80 of 22/8/39. (Air Min. 1942/4).

War Diary

4.6.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Enemy Air Activity

Kirkenes — Reports from Norwegian sources indicate that offensive activity by enemy bombers took place at Kirkenes on 3/6 and 4/6, when considerable damage was done by incendiary bombs. (F.O. Narvik, 1117/4)

Aircraft Mining — There were reports of unidentified aircraft near Lowestoft, Yarmouth, Beachy Head and Selsey Bill before dawn and after dark 4/6; these flights are presumed to have been connected with further minelaying operations by enemy aircraft. These were no reports of any attacks on shipping during the day. (I.C. 0472/40).

Le Havre. Cherbourg. — Le Havre was again raided by enemy aircraft at dusk. 4/6 many bombs being dropped which caused damage and started fires. Other enemy aircraft were active along the French coast after dark and it is understood minelaying was carried out in the Channel at Cherbourg. (I.C.0472/40).

Mining

F.D./6 — NARWHAL reports operation F.D.16 completed (V.A.(S) 0333/4).

1 M. mine — Exploded approx. 126° Adty. Pier Lt. 7 cables (V.A. Dover 0051/4).

Shipping

S.S. WASHINGTON — Left New York 30/5 for Bordeaux to evacuate American citizens. May proceed to Lisbon. Utmost importance she should proceed without any form of interception (Hd. of M. 1402/4 to C. in C., W.A., F.O.C.N.A.).

Enemy Policy — With reference to D.M.S. Part 1 (B.R. 136 (1), Article 53, it is now considered clear that, in submarine and aerial operations, the enemy has adopted a policy of attacking merchant ships without warning. Sub-paragraph (b) of that Article should therefore be regarded as being in force, except in relation to enemy surface warships, as there is as yet no evidence that these are attacking ships in contravention of international law.

War Diary

4.6.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Enemy Policy (Contd.) The following footnote is to be added to the article quoted :- N.B. At present it is considered that enemy submarines may be encountered in Home Waters and in the Atlantic to the eastward of 45° west and northward of 15° North. Outside this area all possible care should be taken before opening fire on a submarine, to make sure that it is an enemy submarine. If the probable field of enemy submarine activity extends, a further announcement will be made amending the limits of the area mentioned in this footnote. (Hd. of M., to all N.C.S.O.'s for Masters of British Merchant Ships, 1145/4).

BERGHOLM (Norwegian fishing vessel) left without clearance, no orders from Norwegian N.A. to sail. How she is to be dealt with (A.C.N.S.(H) 2143/4).

Miscellaneous

Iron Ore Iron ore export trade over Lulea opened June 1st. (A.N.A., Stockholm, 1718/4).

Weather

	Wind.	Visibility.	Outlook.
North Sea	Light variable.	Moderate, fog patches.	Light to moderate S. wind.
Channel	E.N.E. light.	Moderate to good, fog patches.	Similar.
Western Approaches	E. moderate.	Good.	S. moderate wind.
Horns Reef	N.E. light to moderate.	Good.	Light, variable.
W. Coast Norway	Westerly, light to moderate.	Moderate to good.	Similar.
Dutch Coast	Light variable.	Moderate, fog patches.	Similar.

War Diary

4.6.1940.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

Home Commands

DEVONIA

Paddle minesweeper. Report now received that she was beached and abandoned near La Panne 31/5 after extensive damage from bombing. Ammunition destroyed, guns spiked (V.A. Dover 1312/4)

MEDWAY QUEEN

Reported missing 31/5 during operation Dynamo has been located (V.A. Dover 0352/4)

FOLKESTONE
SS RIVER HUMBER

Have been in collision and sunk small coaster RIVER HUMBER in position 218° Skerries 7 miles. 4 survivors, 4 drowned. Flooded to No 7 bulkhead but to go on with convoy. (FOLKESTONE 0231/4 FOLKESTONE to be repaired at Cardiff, (D.D.O.D., 1340/4)

SPEEDWELL

Damaged in collision, requires docking for repairs to stern and bow plating. (V.A. Dover., 0955/4)

KINGSFISHER

Rammed by trawler. Large hole in bow, port side, down to water line, returning under own steam. (C. in C., Nore, 0957/4)

Foreign Stations

BARBARA MARIE

British ss CLAN FRASER arrived Durban 2/6 reports sighting fully equipped life boat marked BARBARA MARIE on 12/5 on 050° 34'North 007° 52' West. Latter ship left Milford Haven 7/5 per Pepel Perfecta (S.O. (1) Capetown 1221/4)

War Diary

4.6.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Convoy C.M. — Re arrangements for West African troops (C. in C., S.A. 1119/4 to S.N.O. Simonstown)

Italian Preparations — Reported A.I. that sailings of Italian vessels in Buenos Aires have been suspended and no more cargo is being loaded (S.O. (1) Montevideo 1016/4)

Later report states that loading has recommenced (I.C. 0472/40)

Mediterranean

Minefields — Summary of minefields reported (D.N.I. 1154/4, to C. in C., Med.)

Spanish Ports Degaussing — Reported (C.3.) that Spanish Customs officers sever de-gauss wiring of British ships while in Spanish ports. Report any confirmation. (D.N.I., to N.A. Madrid, S.O.I., Gib. 1814/4)

T.S.R. Aircraft — To remain at Hyeres with maintenance personnel and stores. Torpedo facilities at Toulon d'Kyd none at Hyeres (5th S.L. 1344/41, Argus 2241/4)

PANDORA — Leave patrol after 2000/6 for Alexandria (Capt. (S) 1 0815/4)

Italian Preparations — Summary of today's (D.N.I. 1950/4)

SICILIA — (9646 tons) sighted 1941/4 carrying troops in postion 36.22' 30"N 23.14' E steering 095° at 10½ knots. Intend to shadow until 0100 returning to patrol if ship maintains present course. (F.O.C 3 C.S. 2108/4)

UMBERTO — Admiral Piper states ship now near Kantara in Canal. Only course now appears to get her safely through Canal Presume C. in C., E.I. knows of her and will arrange to intercept if hostilities occur before she reaches Massawa (Sir M. Lampson, Cairo 2303/4 to C.in C. Med)

War Diary

4.6.1940
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean, Contd.

Italian Fleet

Details of British air reconnaissance 3/6 (D.D.I.C., 1255/4). From Italian Press, S/M LEONARDO DA VINCI and ALESSANDRO MALASPHINA have been taken into service. (S.O.I., Malta, 1247/4)

Dispositions

Warships on passage. (D.C., 0813/4) to (B.N.L.O. Marseau)

Italian Ships Suez Canal

Italian objections to British measures to ensure security of Canal and prevent Italian ships blocking it (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1626/4)

I assume you are maintaining sufficient Naval Force at Port Said and Suez to control incoming shipping if necessary. (1st S.L. 2308/4 to C. in C., Med.)

Reply. Patrols in approaches have not been increased beyond normal but at present CALYPSO and CALEDON are at Port Said and C. in C. E.I. has GRIMSBY at Suez. (C. in C., Med. 0215/5)

GALITEA

Italian, (4013 tons) which was due to sail tomorrow for Syria and pick up passengers is now going to leave tomorrow direct for Naples without passengers. (Press, Cairo)

East Indies

Ports and Lights

Djibouti port closed at night and lights extinguished. Ras Dir, 011.59'N, 063. 22'E., also extinguished (S.O.I., Colombo, 0423/4)

German M.V's

CARAIBE to leave Mombasa 0900Z/5 and cruise northwards to lat 02° N to pass Kismayu in daylight when going north and south, to confirm German ships TANNENFELS and UCKERMARK still in port. DRAGON will arrive Mombasa a.m. 9/6 escorting 2 transports (C.in C., E.I. 0905 2/4)

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies, Contd.

Delaying Italian Ships — Colonial Office instructions that Italian ships generally should be delayed on various pretexts ~~in~~ Colonial ports appears to conflict with Adty. 0049/4 re SAVOIA (C. in C., E.I. 0642Z/4)

MIRAGLIA (A/C carrier) (etc) — Arrived Tripoli night 2/3 June. 3 Carriers left Naples p.m. /3 but may be in offing. Ships at Naples (names) CITTA DI TRIESTE loading ammunition. Embarkation of troops at Naples proceeding. 5 Transports due to leave Naples 4/6 or 5/6 probably for Libya. (N.A. Rome, 1841/4, S.O. (1) Alexandria 1058/4)

C.S. 4 — Flag transferred to LEANDER (C.S. 4 1433Z/4)

Transport voyages — AC Malaya's 0737/28/5. ~~All~~ transport votages notified hitherto have been cancelled and further signal will be made giving details of convoy leaving U.K. about 22/6 and proceeding via Cape (D of S.T. 0720/4)

China

Dutch E.I. — Expected conference with Netherlands E.I. naval representatives during which Admty. 2350/1 (procedure for entry of Dutch war vessels into British defended ports) can be discussed. (F.O.C., Singapore, 04452/4, to C. in C., China)

America & West Indies

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA — Re Adty. 2026/3, EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA is to be used for movement from Canada to Iceland and should then return to Halifax to be available for TC 6 (D of S.T. 1416/4) Please confirm that she is not to carry cargo allocated for U.K. N.S.H.Q Ottawa 1127/4)

DIOMEDE — To escort LADY DRAKE to Jamaica from Bermuda Route to show flag. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1042/4)

Bermuda Convoys — Admty. 2029/3. Commence with B.H.X. 49 junction position for Bermuda and Halifax Convoy amended. (C.inC., A.W.I 1622/4(

CARADOC — Your 0053/4 CARADOC to escort LADY DRAKE concur. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, to C. in C., A.W.I., 1017/4)

War Diary

4.6.1940.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

HELLE DESCHAMPS — French(349 tons) sunk by mine off Margate at 0615/4. 3 miles 334° from Buoy. Channel being swept (C. in C., Nore 1245/4, C.G. Margate 0615/4)

BLOCKSHIP — Sunk by magnetic mine during operation C.K.

IONIA — Reported in Madrid Press sunk by U boat off Finisterre presumably p.m. /2. Reported to be in H.G.F. (D.N.I. 0108/5) whole crew landed here.
Sunk by S/M 2100/1, 120 miles off Finisterre. (Vigo 2330/4) Was in H.G.F. 32B (F.O.C.N.A. 1704)

OCEAN LASSIE — Drifter, sunk by mine near Outer Ride Buoy, Harwich. (D.S.)

RENOWN — Fishing vessel, mined and sunk 1/6 near Sandette lightship off Dieppe. (D.S.)

Unknown ship — Master of British SS HILLAROY reports that he saw a U-boat sink a merchant ship by gunfire 180 miles west of Vigo. 0445/29/5 (A.S.W.D. 273)

Ship struck mine 5 miles E.N.E. Pornese. Pornese (Margate) lifeboat informed. (Margate Coastguard 0615/4)

Submarines Reported

0315 — By aircraft in 58.06'N., 01.45'W (C. in C., Rosyth 0410/4) (See Attacks)

1437 — D.F., unreliable fix, 57.10'N., 2.40'E (D.D.I.C., 1545/4)

1615 — By aircraft escorting Convoy. This may be POLYCARP, reported derelict last night in 49.19'N., 05.35'W. (C. in C., W.A., to GLADIOLUS, 1934/4)

1954 — D.F. unreliable fix. 56.30'N., 6.30'E., (D.D.I.C. 2047/4)

1603 — By 1603 (instructions to proceed towards 2 U-Boats) No confirmation of report received from the aircraft. Proceed in execution of previous orders. (C. in C., W.A., 2019/4)

1730/1 — Swedish ship SUSANN NIELSGAARD reports S/M observed between Land's End and Wolf Rock at 1730/1/6 steering W.N.W. (H.O.I.C., Milford Haven, 1023/4)

War Diary

4.6.1940.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported Contd.

1400

2 U-Boats reported 52.16'N 10.21'W (10 miles North of Blasket Rock) SANDWICH ordered to intercept (A.S.W.D. 273, C. in C., W.A. 1603/4)

Estimated Dispositions

No confirmation that any U-Boat is now off spain. Possibly one in W.A. One off S. Ireland. Homewards. One off N.W. Ireland. Homewards. One off Shetlands. Homeward bound. One in Moray Firth Area. One in 55.54'N 3. 56'E at 2118/3 probably outward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1231/4)

Estimate dispositions for 5/6/40:
1 in Moray Firth
1 West of The Hebrides homeward bound
1 West of Ireland homewards
1 to the S.E. of the Fair Isle Channel outward bound.

(There is a possibility that this U-Boat may succeed in passing through the Fair Isle channel tonight, in which case she should be between longitudes 3 and 4 degs W around first light)

1 in Western Approaches
possibly 2 in the vicinity of Dingle Bay. (H.Q.C.C. 1730/4)

Submarines Attacked

0315

By aircraft in 58.06'N., 01.45'W, 2 bombs dropped estimated one hit. (Denibristle, 0510/4) ESCORT and ENCOUNTER searching (R.A. (D) H.F., 0757/4)

? time

By aircraft 195° Lizard Hd. 40 miles one hit and one near miss estimated (Air Min., D.S. 321)

War Diary

5.6.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

50 Ships off Texel

At 0330/5 and aircraft reported fifty ships of unidentified type and size ten miles South of the Texel, steering south. Fog prevented further search.

Two enemy ships reported at sea.

Two unidentified vessels were reported to be proceeding westwards in a position 300 miles West of Trondheim at 1130. A flying boat was sent to locate them, but was recalled on account of low visibility before reaching the position. RENOWN, REPULSE, 2 cruisers and 5 destroyers left scapa at 2130 to intercept. The A.M.C's on Northern Patrol were ordered to move west and later to resume patrol. Early on 6/6 the ship originating the report stated that the vessels were probably merchant ships. The battles cruiser force is still at sea.

Destroyers

C. in C., Nore has recommended that the destroyers of 20th D.F. should re-embark their guns for the present owing to shortage of destroyers, as we can now obtain the use of Dutch and French minelayers.

Invasion

An Appreciation refers to possibility of attack by tanks carried on small motor boats, and envisages the invasion of England not in terms of bases, covering forces, sea power etc., but as likely to be unorthodox and rapid, and carried out on a wide front. In photographs taken of Kiel on 7/4 it was noticed that a large number of peculiarly constructed barges were being built and that about 50 were already afloat (C. I. C. Report 6)

Mining

One delayed action mine has been destroyed two miles from No Mans Fort, Spithead; and four magnetic mines have been found off Cherbourg, where a Dredger has been sunk. Cherbourg and Havre are open, but Portsmouth, Newhaven, and Dieppe are closed.

Norway

See Operations Volume

Enemy Air Activity

Bombing attacks were made in the evening 4/6 and during the night 4/5 June at Le Havre which was heavily bombed and fires started and South of Dieppe. Attacks were also carried out S.W. and S.E. of Paris.

War Diary

5.6.1940
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT, Contd.

Success of Convoy System	In the first 9 months of war 23,000 ships were convoyed by the Navy with the loss of 32 ships by enemy action while in convoys. With the Germans holding one side of the Straits of Dover consideration must be given to the protection of convoys proceeding within sight of his batteries.
Raider	It was learnt today that a possible raider was sighted on 20/5 off French Guiana.
Western Front	The Germans began an attack on the Somme-Aisne line held by the Allies.

War Diary

5.6.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Orkneys — Requesting authority be obtained to prohibit publication in Press of air raid warnings as necessary. (A.C.O.S., 1231/5)

Enemy Ships Disguised — Enemy ships may attempt to enter undefended ports disguised as British or Allied warships. Steps to be taken. Allied warships working with fleet- BLYSKAWICA, ORZER, WILK, only other Allied warships likely to operate from ports in U.K. in immediate future are BURZA, SLEIPNER, DRAUG and Dutch M/L's sloops, and Destroyers, S/m's and motor boats. (A.C.N.S. (H) 0103/5)

Swale Boom — Suggesting baulk boom to close eastern end of Swale and approaches to Faversham Creek (Cdre i/c Sheerness, 1524/5) Concur (C. in C., Nore 2255/5)

Southampton — Your 1417/2 Owing to geographical position of Southampton and the scale of defence provided, it is not considered necessary to send the 3 blockships requested. (Hd of M., to C. in C. Portsmouth 1818/5)

Plan FLOOD renamed DAGGER — Ref A.L.M. 010210/40, dated 26/5/40, approved for plan FLOOD to be renamed DAGGER. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1331/5)

Aberdeen — 6" guns in Torry Point battery now available for defence and examination service (N.O.I.C., Aberdeen, 1522/5)

Tyne — Your 1657/4 No M.T.B's available at present. Matter will receive further consideration at a future date. (D. of L.D. to F.O.I.C., Tyne, 1734/5)

Shetlands — Fortification of the Narrows at Aalen in Fordefjord (S.O. (1) Lerwick 1717/5)

Southampton — Re- port scheme (F.O.I.C. Southampton 1839/5)

Movements

CANTON — F.O.I.C., Portland to sail her p.m., today for Patrol in area 3. (C. in C.W.A. 1334/4

Submarines — Positions 0600/6 (D.C., 1914/5 0145/6 V.A.S., 1812/5, 2337/5, 2246/5)

War Diary

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operation Quidnunc

(/ Cutting of cables to Scandinavia)

G.P.O. report tests show SANDERVIG No 2 not repitition not cut. This cable is to be cut inside minefield as far out as considered practicable. (DA/SW 1620/5 to C.inC., Rosyth)

Propose sailing trawlers CLOTILDE, MILFORD QUEEN, MILFORD PRINCESS and JAMES LAY to Yarmouth tomorrow Thursday. PELTON and GRAMPIAN carrying out Admiralty 1620/5. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1737/5)

Evacuation of B.E.F.

Small Percentage of loss

The evacuation of B.E.F. provided effective reply to German claim that British sea power has been countered by enemy air force. During this operation H.M. Ships made a total of 540 round trips Dunkirk and back.

German aircraft in great numbers and under most favourable conditions have attacked and scored hits on less than 5 per cent of these passages, and then only when ships were either stationary or in crowded or narrow waters where manoeuvring was rendered difficult. These figures do not include the result of air attacks on the large number of auxiliary craft employed and against which even less success was obtained. (D.N.I., 1758/5)

Evacuation of B.E.F. Stragglers

To take place in small boats from coast between Gravelines and mouth of Somme. Arrangements made to get in touch with them. Operation to commence on night 5/6 June and continue nightly until cancelled.

Air reconnaissance to be provided if requested for 3 hours in early morning of 6/6, 7/6, 8/6. Forces taking part, WANDERER, H.M.M.Y. GULZAR, H.M.M.B. HALCYONE and 8 m.b's (capacity 30 men) each with a skiff (H.Q.C.C. 1850/5)

Coast of France

Cherbourg

Harbour is closed to shipping (p.m. Cherbourg 0132/5) (D.M.S., 0821/5) Enemy aircraft over port about 0020. mines reported. (B.N.L.O. Marcean from D.S.T.C., 1240/5) Report at 1730/5. No air raids. Port closed except to treated vessels, minesweeping in progress. (B.N.L O. Marcean, 1940/5)

War Diary

5.6.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Coast of France Contd.

Evacuation

French soldiers stranded in ship aground in 51.5'N 2.10'E 2 M.T.B's to rescue. (C. in C., Nore 1755/5)

Bordeaux

In view of grave conjestion of shipping and railway, received deputation of British shipping interests in Bordeaux urgently demanding at least 2000 extra dockyard labourers to handle situation. Request immediate action with French Govt. (Bordeaux, 1230/5)

Le Havre

Port Open, condition unchanged at 2135. (B.N.L.O., Marceau, 2220/5)

Narvik

Aerodromes

Admty. 0107/5. This will be done, observing Bardufoss and Skaanland being used till last moment. Fear it will not be possible to deny use for more than a few days. Norwegian Air Force occupying Bardufoss. A good aerodrome has been prepared at Laxebo on Porshapger Fiord entirely in Norwegian hands. Other landing grounds also available Evvenos, Bjervik. Will see what can be done about them. (F.O. Narvik, 1420/5)

Army Forces Embarked

Pass to Troopers, London, AZ 30/5, from N.W.E.F. Following embarked SOBIESKI, (Army details, including Polish Battalion of approx 1,000, H.Q., Foreign Legion 240, H.Q. Polish Brijade 400, total 1706) (F.O. Narvik, 1524/5)

Pass to Troopers, London AZ 31/5 from N.W.E.F. Following embarked MONARCH OF BERMUDA, Polish Battalion, approx. 750; 201 st Battery, R.A., 221; 6th Bn., Chasseurs Alpine, 502; 63rd A/A., 523; R.A.F., 100; 165th A/A, 31; total 2127 (F.O., Narvik, 1526/5)

Pass to Troopers, London AZ 32/5 from N.W.E.F. Following embarked BATORY: French H.Q., (and details French Troops, also various British troops 8 R.A.F) total 2356 (F.O.Narvik 1528/5)

War Diary

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Narvik Contd.

Pass to Troopers. 271. Following sailed 5/6. DALLINGTON COURT. Contents R.A.F., R.E., M.A.A.F.I., etc., and vehicles and equipment; MARINA guns and vehicles. (F.O.Narvik, 1814/5)

Iceland

Have isolated platoons at Seydisfjordur east coast and Akureyri on North Coast. Request Admty. assistance in emergency for these ports as not possible from Reykjavik (Alabaster 2215/5)

AIR

British Air Activity

Beach Reconnaissances

Should now be extended northwards from Wick to Duncansby Hd. (Hofor, London, 1530/5)

Attack on Stavanger Aerodrome

12 Hudsons leave Wick 2200/5 to attack (C.in C., Rosyth 2156/5) Attack cancelled owing to bad visibility (C. in C. Rosyth 0012/6)

During the 24 hours ending 1800/5, no operations were carried out over Norway, owing to low cloud (Air Min. D.S. 323)

Markings

National identification marks under the port wing of British Fighter aircraft are to be surrounded by a yellow ring of suitable width. (Admty. 1248/5)

War Diary

5.6.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

V.A. Dover's 2019/4 In view of presence of many magnetic mines I agree with V.A. Dover it is most desirable to use submarines for this purpose. (V.A. (S) 1049/5)

Successful minesweeping is reported from Spithead. (D.S.)

Cherbourg

Several magnetic mines have been discovered in the roadstead and approaches to Cherbourg. (D.S.) Port closed except to treated vessels. Minesweeping in progress. (B.N.L.O. Marceau 1940/5)

Parachute mines have been dropped off the Isle of Wight and the Norfolk Coast. (D.S.)

The magnetic mine recovered by the French from the Channel on June 4, and reported to be of a new variety, has proved after examination to be of standard type. (D.S.)

Gardening

Tonight (H.Q.C.C. 1210/5, 0950/5) intend to sail 0400/6 from Spurn Point and begin laying 1515/6 (TEVIOT BANK, 1055/5)

Operation B.S. 11.

GALLANT and WALPOLE to escort minelayers. Aircraft will escort the force from 1415 tomorrow, Thursday, until about 1015.

TEVIOT BANK to report to A.O.C. 16 Group anticipated position at 1415 (C. in C., Nore 2200/5)

Destroyer Minelayers

In view of shortage of destroyers and the fact that we can obtain the use of Dutch and French minelayers, recommend 20th Flotilla should at once re-embark their guns and keep them for a month or two. They now mount only 2 guns and are of negligible fighting value with 2 guns on shore. (C. in C., Nore, 0952/5)

Submarines, Dover.

In view of the points raised in V.A. Dover's 2019/4 it has been decided that minelaying submarines will not be employed in the Straits of Dover (D.D.O.D. (M) 1856/5)

War Diary

5.6.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Large number of small fast craft

Reported near the Texel 0330 proceeding South. Being investigated (D.C. 0800/5)

2 Unknown Vessels

Sighted by R.P.A. PRUNELLA 1130/5 bearing 245° 11 miles apprex., true course 265°, 20 knots. Her position 64. 45'N 0.24'E (Adty. 1538/5 to C. in C., H.F.)

Take RENOWN REPULSE SUSSEX NEWCASTLE and five destroyers detailed as screen under your orders and proceed as soon as ships are ready. Your object is to intercept vessels reported in Admiralty's 1538/5 (C. in C., H.F. 1940/5 to B.C.I)

Sunderland (flying boat) leaving Sullom Voe 1700 but in prevailing visibility uncertain whether she will be able to carry out search. (C. in C., Rosyth 1636/5) Recalled before reaching positior (Denibristle 2155/5)

Northern Patrol notified, and that 2 battle cruisers, cruisers and 5 destroyers were proceeding to intercept. (F.O.C.N.P. 2247/5)

PRUNELLA has been asked for an amplifying report (D.C., 1700/5)

A.M.C's Northern Patrol, to steer 245° until further news is received. (C. in C., H.F. 2159/5) At last sped (VANP 1234/5)

My 1538/5 PRUNELLA now reports that the 2 ships sighted at 1130/5 were very difficult to identify hull down, but were probably merchant ships about the same size each with two masts and one funnel. (O.C., 0641/6)

E. Boats

Extract from SHELDRAKE'S report re experience with E Boats (C. in C., Nore, 1554/5)

Trawlers

4 trawlers type vessels vicinity of R. Buoy. Am investigating. (FYLDEA to N.O.I.C. Dover, 0320/5)

TIRPITZ
ADMIRAL SCHEER

Photographic air reconnaissance of Wilhelmshaven to-day showed TIRPITZ and ADMIRAL SCHEER there (I.C. 0473)

Destroyer damaged 8/5

TRITON's Patrol report. Skipper of Danish fishing vessel searched 22/5 in 57.17 N., 0510 E., saw TAKU's attack on convoy on 8/5 and reports 2 ships set on fire and 1 destroyer apparently damaged aft. (V.A.S. 1057/5)

War Diary

5.6.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys, Dover Straits

Now that the enemy hold one side of Dover Straits, OA and homeward bound convoys for Thames Estuary are passing within sight of an enemy coast. Consideration must be given to the safety of these convoys, and as a first step it is requested that fighter protection may be provided while passing the Straits. (C. in C. Nore, 1800/5)

Fishing

Orders with regards to fishing vessels on East and South coats to be brought into force forthwith. (D.T.D. 1916/5)

Ocean Convoys

Positions (D.C. 1839/5)

Signals

British recognition signals, codes, and cyphers are not to be given to any Allied ships with the exception of the French unless Admiralty permission is first obtained. (D.S.D. 1738/5)

GUNVOR MAERSK

Danish. Nazi sympathies of Mate and Chief Steward. Suggest their internment. Probable remainder of crew are implicated Request a relief crew may be provided. (F.O.C.O.S. 1600/5)

H X 43

8 hours late at R.V. with 41 ships. Strong winds and seas, no fog (D.T.D. 1633/5 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

SALMON
ROMA
SALERNO

British, reported to have been taken by to Oslo by Germans and crews prisoners. C.I. (A.N.A. Stockholm 1629/5)

Losses in Convoy

Up to 1200/5 just over nine months, 23,000 ships had been convoyed by the Navy. Of these 32 were lost by enemy action while in convoy. Of these 23,000 ships 18,274 were British, 1563 were Allied and 3163 were Neutral and the proportion of losses works out at 1 in 653 British, 1 in 1563 Allied and 1 in 1054 Neutral.

Miscellaneous

Fishing Vessels

On East and South coasts. Following orders to be brought into force at once. (D.T.D. 1916/5)

War Diary

5.6.1940.
Wednesday.

WEATHER

	Wind	Weather	Visibility
North Sea	Generally Light and variable but N.E. moderate in south.	Extensive fog in S.W. with some haze or fog elsewhere in Western half.	Moderate or poor in Western half to good in Eastern half.
Horns Reef	N. Light to moderate	Fine	Good
Channel	N.E. to E Moderate Fresh locally	Haze or fog patches	Moderate to good except in fog.
Western Approaches	E. Moderate	Fine	Mainly Good
Norwegian Coast	Light and variable in south. W. Moderate or Fresh in North.	Fine in South cloudy with occasional rain in North	Moderate to good.

War Diary

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Wednesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

HALCYON — Damage to A/S dome and oscillator, necessitating docking. (V.A. Dover, 1914/5).

STELLA — Dutch (2818 tons) reported that she was sunk by enemy A/C on her way from Antwerp to Rotterdam on or about 10/5. (C. in C., Nore, 1758/5, Lloyds).

DEVONIA — Pad. M/S (Bombed 31/5). Total loss. (D.N.I. 2008/5)

Dutch Schoorer — Name at present unknown sunk in collision approx. 115° N. Goodwin L.V. 1 mile. (V.A. Dover, 1358/5).

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French Positions — Convoys and Patrols (D.C., 0049/5).

Evacuation of Nationals — My 1045/17/5. Foreign Office have requested that MOHAMED ALI EL KEBIR and AL RAWDAH remain at your disposal so as to be available for possible evacuation of British subjects in Spain, Portugal or Tangier. Vessels are accordingly available for your use as required. (D. of S.T., to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C., Med., 0238/5).

PATROCLUS — Patrol area (F.O.C.N.A. 1028/5).

Degaussed Ships, Wiring — Adty. 1214/4, re severing of degaussing wire at Spanish Ports, not confirmed. All British Masters are interviewed by this centre. (S.O.I., Gib., 1120/5).

Italian Ships to be brought in — My 2316/23/5 and 1853/5 are not to apply to following Italian ships which are to be brought in for Contraband Control and detained pending instructions from M.E.W. Cargoes are to be reported and no holdback undertakings to be accepted.

PAGAO	ATLAS	TODARO
SANGRO	BARBARIGO	BURMA
FORTUNATA	LAVORO	IDA
GIANNA M.	FULGOR	BURANO
CONTE DI MISURATA	ARCOLA	CELLINA
	OLTERRA	

This does not apply to any of these ships which may already have passed. (D.E.W.D., 1724/5).

British Ships to proceed. — Orders for certain British ships to proceed to their various destinations in Mediterranean. (D.T.D. 1930/5).

South Atlantic

Convoy U.S.3 — Route. Asking for decision re escort from Freetown to U.K. (S. in C., S.A. 1211/4). Reply. Division of convoy must be avoided on account of destroyer situation in Home Waters. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1924/5).

Possible Raider — British SILVER WILLOW arrived Cape Town today reports tanker about 15000 tons similar to ALTHARK.....

War Diary

5.6.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Possible Raider (Contd.) ALTMARK 0830/20/5 position 07:07 N., 48:25 W., considerable speed and movements most suspicious. Details. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1513/5).

South African Aircraft JU.86 aircraft have been withdrawn from coastal reconn., and only aircraft now available for this service are 16 Ansons (to be increased to 24) without wireless, bomb racks, or armament. (Defence H.Q. Pretoria to High Commissioner, London, recd. from Air Min. 1529/5).

Defence of Congo BRIDGEWATER, now in Congo, should confer with Belgian authorities on defence of Congo. Demonstration of allied solidarity by parade of French, Belgian and British units fixed for June 9. Adty. consider it politically desirable that personnel of BRIGEWATER should take part. (Hd. of M., to C. in C., SA. 1816/5).

Madagascar Broadcasts. Your 1513/20. French Adty. have arranged for Madagascar broadcasts to be made in confidential meteorological code. (Hd. of M., to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1913/5).

Mediterranean

UMBRIA With cargo of bombs etc. presumably for Massawa arrives Suez southbound pm/5. She has already been subjected to 24 hours' delay in Canal (C. in C., Med. 0343/5). Not to be held at Suez but if possible to be unobstrusively shadowed pending further instructions (A.C.N.S.(F) 1356/5) Adty. 1356/5. Intend LEANDER to get in touch dawn 7/6. Am asking R.A.F. to help if difficulty in locating her (C.S.4 1722/5).

Italian preparations Naples reports transports LOMBARDIA SATURNIA SARDEGNA GIULO CESARE AUGUSTUS preparing to leave 4/6 or 5/6 with Infantry, Artillery, engineers and Tenth Automobile Corps.

Also during past fortnight ARICLER, DUILIO, LYNNLIA, PIEMONTE, SAURO, NEPTUNA, LIGURIA have been transporting troops and munitions to Tripoli and Libya. On 1/6 S.S. ROMA with troops embarked and sailed for Cagliari returning to Naples 3/6. All ships of Lauro Line reported to have been recalled. Small local passenger steamers in bay of Naples have been armed. These vessels also tugs and other small craft have recently been requisitioned. CITTA DI TRIESTE is loading munitions. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 1941/5).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Italian Preparations (Contd.)

The Italian commercial service Ala Littoria has suspended its services to Malta Athens and Rhodes. The steamship service between Malta and Syracuse is also interrupted. (British Airways, Rome).
Movements of merchant ships etc. (C.S. St. Angelo 1729/5).

MIRAGLIA left Tripoli 4/6 destination not known. Estimated that 80% of reservists of Air Force will have been re-called by 10/6. There has been steady flow of troops and Air Force personnel to Libya in past weeks. CONTE DE SAVOIA left Genoa 4/6. No change in general situation. (N.A. Rome 1844/5).

UMBRIA

Passage through Canal being delayed 24 hours; ship cannot be held up longer, particularly as as this will provoke incident with Italy which I understand Govt. wish to avoid. (C. in C., Med. 0301/5).

Movements

H.M. Ships on passage. (D.C. 0801/5).

REX

Adverted departure from Genoa on 12th June cancelled. (S.O.I., Malta, 1911/5).

Italian Ships to be brought in.

Cancel 1720/3 and 2013/4 not to all addressees. My 2316/23 and 1853/25 are not to apply to following Italian ships which are to be brought in for Contraband Control and detained pending instructions from M.E.W. Cargoes are to be reported and no holdback undertakings to be accepted.

GLOVE	PROMETEO	INDIA
ESQUILINO	MONTE PIANA	SAVOIA
CARIGNANO	PENSILVANIA	

(D.E.W.D. 1723/5).

Algerian and Tunisian ports precautions

Add para. 4. Movements of ships in all ports of Algeria and Tunisia and their approaches are forbidden at night except French and Allied ships whose arrival or sailing has been previously notified to Authorities. Such ships arriving must also have identified themselves before dark and then received authority to enter. (Malta, 1201/5).

War Diary

5.6.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

SAVOIA — Italian ship, treated as special case. Instructions in my 0049/4 not to be regarded as changing general policy. (D.O.D.(F), to C. in C., E.I., 1217/5).

Red Sea Force, Aden Force. — Flag of F.O.C. 4th C.S. (S.O., Red Sea Force) has been transferred to LEANDER. Composition of Red Sea Force is at present:-

LEANDER, HOBART, CARLISLE.
28th Division Destroyers.
AUCKLAND, FLAMINGO, SHOREHAM, CORNWALLIS, GRIMSBY.

Following based on Aden will be addressed as Aden Force:-

HUNTLEY, DERBY, AMBER, MOONSTONE, CHANTALA, CHAKDINA and SAGITTA.
(C. in C., E.I. 0421Z/5).

Dispositions — COLOMBO proceeding to E. Africa area due Mombasa 11/6. CERES remaining in Ceylon area. ANTENOR will probably leave Aden area for Bombay about 12/6 in readiness for first Mediterranean supply convoy. CATHAY and probably French CARAIBE available to escort Indian Convoy. (C. in C., E.I. 1315Z/5).

Convoy C.M. — Route (C. in C., E.I. 1245Z/5).

MIRAGLIA — Left last night (Consul Tripoli 2015/5).

America & West Indies

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA — Should not carry ~~xxxxxxx~~ cargo for U.K. but what about Iceland? (D. of S.T. 1520/5 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Convoy Escorts — Your 1847/4. It is hoped to put into operation scheme outlined in my 1303/28 when additional A.M.Cs mentioned in your 2029/3 join. In this case Halifax would be best possible base for stores and supplies for all escort forces. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1232/5).

War Diary

5.6.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Dutch Submarines — Your 0445/4. As Dutch Govt. in London have presumably informed Netherlands East Indies Authorities of Procedure laid down in Adty. 2350/1, arrangement should be made to bring this into force as soon as possible. As British Liaison Officers are not on board Netherlands East Indies Submarines the latter should not be issued with British Key Memorandum and special arrangements will therefore be necessary for such submarines to enter a British port. (C. in C., China to F.O. Singapore, 0425Z/5)

Australia

AUSTRALIA — Your 0847/3. Proposals of the Commonwealth Govt. are much appreciated and are much appreciated and are most gratefully accepted by the Adty. The proposed future movements of AUSTRALIA will be communicated shortly. (D.O.D.(F) 0056/5 to A.C.N.B.).

U.S.S. — Adty. appreciation for onward passage from Freetown. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1928/5).

Italian Merchant Ships — Instructions, as revealed by signals from Coltano (D.N.I. Melbourne 1205Z/5).

War Diary.

5.6.40.
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

CAPABLE sunk — British coaster, 216 tons, mined 131° Horsesand 2.8 miles off Spithead and sank with all hands. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1135/5).

SWEEP II sunk — Ipswich Corporation, Sludge-barge, mined in Thames Approaches and sank. (C. in C. Nore 1758/5).

STANCOR sunk — Br. Sunk by U-b by gun fire 59°28'N 6o38'W 2215 (IC 0475/40)

Submarines Reported.

0343 — By A/C 612 Sqdn. 58:28 N., 02:04 W., 3 miles E. from Wick in Caithness. Doubtful (A/C, 0343/5, 0348/5) (C. in C. Rosyth, 0720/5).

0518 — By A/C 224 Sqdn., 56:35 N., 04:30 E., 97 miles W. from Horns Reef. A/C 0518/5 (R.A.S., 0616/5).

1928 — D.F. unidentified enemy unit, 56:50 N., 5:00 E., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 2020/5).

1301 — 56:20 N., 4:50 E. Indefinite position A.I. (I.C. 0473/40).

1945/4 — Submarine reported in 43:35 N., 9:23 W. at 1945/4 (Toulon Radio, 1815/5, D.D.I.C. 2009/5).

2325/4 — By D.F., unreliable fix, 57:45 N., 5:20 E. (D.N.I. 0013/5).

Estimated Dispositions

Possibly one still in Western Approaches.
One off N.W. Ireland homeward bound.
One W. of Hebrides homeward bound.
One in Northern North Sea homeward bound.
One in Moray Firth area.
One in 56:35 N. 4:20 E. at 0518½/5 probably outward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1234/5).

Submarines Attacked

1700 — By A/S vessel WHITE BEAR 53:42½ N., 0:51 E., off Spurn Pt. (S.3 2301/6).

2224 — By A/C 54:10 N., 2:10 E. sighted on surface against afterglow of N.W. sky 8-10 m. distant. Observed as coastal type U.1-U.24 class. Shallow dive.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines attacked (Contd.)

2224 dive attack made and salve of 3 bombs released as U-boat submerged. Bombs fell alongside the conning tower. Large streak of oil left on surface, but in failing light nothing else sighted. (Donibristle, 0030/6) (C. in C., Rosyth, 0020/6).

War Diary

6.6.40.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

The aerodromes at Thornaby, North'Coates, Manswell and Bircham Newton were bombed during the night 5/6 and incendiary bombs were dropped at North Fleet in the Thames Estuary, but no serious damage was done, though 2 Hudsons were damaged at Thornaby.

Other enemy a/cs were constantly reported off the coast during the night and it is strongly suspected that further minelaying was carried out to the S.E. of Flamboro Head, off the Humber, Dungeness and Beachy Head, in the approaches to Spithead, off the Isle of Wight, and perhaps in the Portland-Weymouth area.

SWORDFISH

One of our a/cs unsuccessfully attacked SWORD-FISH in the North Sea at 2230/6.

NELSON

Left Portsmouth 1700/6 for the Clyde.

Mining

Two parachute mines were dropped off the Needles after midnight 5/6, and one on to the mud off Grimsby at about 0100/6.

The Eastern channel at Portsmouth was opened at 1620; but the port is now closed nightly from dark till 7 a.m. The Western entrance of Dover Harbour is closed and Portland is open to D.G. ships only. 2 magnetic mines were exploded by sweepers ahead of NELSON which left Greenock at 1700; and 2 mines have been exploded at Cherbourg.

At 1100 the British D.G. ship HARCALO, 5081 tons, was mined in the searched channel near the North Goodwin Buoy and beached. The area was searched without result and traffic released about 2000.

CARINTHIA torpedoed

A.M.C. CARINTHIA was torpedoed at 1412 off N.W. Ireland. She is one of the patrol of A.M.Cs which was only started at the beginning of this month.

Italian Shipping

All Italian shipping is to be submitted to the most rigorous contraband control, except shipping employed in trade between Italy and her colonies.

There are 16 Italian ships in U.K. ports and none expected.

SITUATION REPORT

Italian Preparations	Italy has announced that from today the waters within 12 miles of the coasts of Italy Albania and Italian colonies and possessions are dangerous to navigation. Preparations for war continue.
Norway	See Operations Volume.
Switzerland	As result of Swiss resistance to German pressure in Swiss-German trade negotiations, Germans reported to have implied that force would be used if their requests refused.
Roumania	H.M. Minister, Bucharest, has been authorised to warn Roumanian Govt. of dangerous futility of servile policy towards Germany which they have apparently adopted.

War Diary

6.6.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Devonport Dockyard	Consider it essential volunteer units be enrolled under naval law and not military law to avoid duplication of responsibility and confusion. (A.S. Devonport, 1639/6).
Southampton	Port scheme. (F.O.I.C. Southampton 1839/5 to Adty.)
Folkestone	(V.A. Dover 2125/6 to Adty.) and local defence (V.A. Dover 1904/6).
Hull Immingham Grimsby	Do. (F.O. Humber 2111/6 to Adty.).
Tyne	Do. (F.O. Tyne 2101/6 to Adty.).
Aberdeen	Ref. Adty. 1847/3. To be added to list of ports quoted and [redacted] to be sent there. (Adty. 1325/6 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen).
Cromarty Firth	Port scheme. (R.A. Invergordon 1910/6 to Adty).
Lough Foyle Londonderry Larne Belfast Harbour	Re defence (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1157/6 to Adty.).
Newhaven	Port scheme. (N.O.I.C., Newhaven, 1715/6).
Methil Burnt Island	Port scheme. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1652/6).
Poole	Do. (R.N.O. Poole 1745/6).
Orwell	Do. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1345/6).
King's Lynn	Do. (King's Lynn 1703/6).
Leith, Granton	Do. (N.O.I.C. Leith, 2220/6).
Sunderland, Seaham	Do. (N.O.I.C., Sunderland, 2301/6).

War Diary

6.6.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Sheerness — Port Scheme (C&r. I.C. Sheerness 1630/6).

Middlesborough — Do. (N.O.I.C. Middlesborough, 1800/6).

Blyth — Do. (N.O.I.C. Blyth, 1804/6).

Movements

Northern Patrol — My 2234/5. Proceed at normal speed. V.A.N.P. 1037 to LETITIA, CIRCASSIA, WOLFE, LAURENTIC, SCOTSTOUN.

Orders to CALIFORNIA (V.A.N.P., 1133/6).

Further orders to ships on patrol (V.A.N.P., 1114/6).

NELSON — Left Portsmouth escorted by AMAZON, WARWICK, and WITCH (C. in C., Portsmouth 1513/6 to Adty.) Sailed Portsmouth 1700/6 for Clyde. (D.C. 0754/7 to B.N.L.O. Marceau).

VALIANT — My personal message 1940/5. VALIANT is sailing 2100/6 for this duty. Amend time of origin of message quoted to read 1942 for future reference. (C. in C., H.F., to F.O.C., B.C.S., 1804/6).

Left Scapa screened by TARTAR, MASHONA, BEDOUIN and ASHANTI. (F.O.C.O.S. 1858/6).

Submarines — Positions 0006/7 (D.C. 2200/6, 0610/7).

Operations

Evacuation of B.E.F.

Small Craft Adrift. — Derelict boats and floats sighted by aircraft (Chatham, 0653/6). 2 Blenheims to make final reconnaissance of area North Goodwin - West Hinder - West Deep - Zuydcoote Pass - Calais Roads - South Goodwin for small craft at daylight 7/6. In particular information required of 4 naval motor landing craft M.L.C. 12, 17, 21, 22. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 2300/6).

War Diary

6.6.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Iceland

In view great difficulty identifying suspicious a/c and vessels except near Reykjavik N.O.I.C. Iceland should be informed of any H.M. ships or a/c sighted by Coast Watchers in Iceland. (N.O.I.C., Iceland 1329/6). (D.O.D.H. to C. in C. Rosyth ? time).

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA — Military authorities wish her to remain at least 24 hours at Reyjavik to bring back reconnaissance party. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1231/6).

Operation Quidrung.
(Cutting of cables to Scandinavia)

Peterhead - Egersund cable — Cutting and sealing completed by MONARCH 1700/5 (C. in C., Rosyth, 1127/6).

Adty. 1620/5. Sondervig No. 2 cut. Adty. 1804/23/5 Trawler operations completed. (F.O.I.C., Tyne 1626/6).

Air.

British Air Activity

SWORDFISH attacked — One of our own aircraft attacked SWORDFISH in North Sea 2230/6. Attack was unsuccessful (D.C.N.S. 277).

Search for 2 enemy ships — 3 Sunderlands left Sullom Voe 0400 for the Northern Patrol area, to assist in the search for 2 unidentified ships sighted 5/6. (D.C.N.S. 276).

Night Recognition Signals — In view of enemy use of navigation lights by night over land, burning of navigation lights can no longer be regarded as a means of recognition. Suggested action, and comments requested. (Air Min. (O.A.), 1531/6).

Enemy Air Activity

Raids on U.K. — Between 2100/5 and 0300/6 there was intense enemy activity between the Orkneys and Isle of Wight. Hostile aircraft approached Scapa and Wick with little success; weather was possibly too bad.

War Diary

6.6.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

Raids on U.K. (Contd.)

Hostile aircraft crossed the coast in the area THORNABY, DRIFFIELD, and apparently flew round until they saw aerodromes lit up, when they proceeded to drop incendiary and high explosive bombs. DRIFFIELD, THORNABY, BIRCHAM NEWTON, HEMSWELL, NORTH COATES and GRIMSBY were bombed. So far as can be ascertained up to the present, comparatively little damage was done. (Air Min. D.S. 322).

Portland Raid

Air raid over Portland and Weymouth Bay 0035 to 0105 probably 2 possibly 3 planes, flying high. One loud explosion and flash off Portland Bill reported in air and falling débris seen.

As no mines observed to fall by small craft or observers, do not consider it necessary to close port, except for ships not degaussed pending skids having swept channel. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0302/6).

Mining

Exits for forces from Sheerness and Dover

Your 2019/4. Important that forces from Sheerness and also from Dover should be able when necessary to move east passing south of our mine barrier. I do not see how this can be achieved if Q.Z.60 is blocked with mines unless a new channel is swept or searched near 51:35 N. (C. in C., Nore, 1240/6 to V.A. Dover).

POLLUX to lay mines, departure form N. Goodwin L.V. 2200/6 (V.A. Dover 0955/6).

Cherbourg

Mines believed dropped during night 4/6. Two mines exploded during night 5/6. One Dredger mined in harbour. (Cherbourg 1320/6 to War Office). Port closed except to treated ships. (B.N.L.O. Marceau 1755/6 to Adty.).

Portsmouth

Portsmouth mined, port closed (D.C. 0751/6). Eastern channel was opened at 1620/6. The port is now closed nightly from dark until 0700 (D.C.N.S. 277).

War Diary 6.6.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

NELSON	Sailed at 1700/6 for Greenock. 2 magnetic mines were exploded by sweepers ahead of her. (D.C.N.S. 277).
Dover	Western entrance is closed. (do.)
Portland	Open to D.G. ships only pm/6 (I.C. 0474/40).
E. Coast Barrier	TEVIOT BANK laid further mines pm/6 (do.)
Mines off Texel	There is a suspicion of moored mines in 53:44 N., 4:08 E. (approx. 40 miles N.W. of Texel) (I.C. 0473/40).

Enemy Intelligence

TIRPITZ SCHEER	Wilhelmshaven TIRPITZ in Bauhafen SCHEER in dock otherwise harbour practically deserted. BRUMMER and PEDERSKRAM where previously reported. One T/B in Torpedo Boat Harbour otherwise only three medium Merchant ships and a few patrol craft. In Emden harbour some barge activity and possibly one T/B Delfz is partially blocked by floating barges. (a/c 0110/6) TIRPITZ afloat in dry dock in which she has been repairing. Apparent activity by E. boats in Schilling Roads and off Frisian Is. (I.C. 0474/40).
E.A. sighted	With navigation lights on at 2209, 52:58 N. 4:34 E. heading N.E. (across Texel) (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0001/7).
21 E. boats	Identity of these vessels uncertain, observed by a/c 1300/6, 53:30 N. 5:45 E. (2 miles N. Ameland) moving in general easterly direction and leaving large wake. Several others noticed in Schilling Roads (I.C. 0474/40 and Air Min. D.S. 323).
M.Vs	1904 one 1500 tons 53:57 N. 4:4 E. Co. N. 7 knots. 1912 one 5000 tons 53:38 N. 3:4 E. stationary. 1912 two 5000 tons same position course 070° 10 knots. A/c reports. (I.C. 0474/40)
30 unknown vessels	Observed 2232/6 by a/c 52:3 N. 3:53 E. (off Hook) course 45° not located by subsequent air reconnaissance. (I.C. 0474/40).

War Diary

6.6.1940
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Fishing Vessels

Limits for, amendment (O.M.S. 1209/6)

Italian Shipping to be examined

Except for shipping employed in trade directly between the Italian Colonies and Italy all Italian ships are to be submitted to the most rigorous control both for imports and exports. All concessions previously allowed them with the exception mentioned above have been withdrawn. (Admty. 1739/6)

Convoys in Dover Straits

C. in C. Nore's 1800/5. The forms of attack are considered to be:-

(a) Intensified Submarine attack particularly west of Dungeness clear of Dover Strait Minefields and patrols.

(b) Attack Thames Estuary to Beachy Head including the Downs.

(c) Aircraft bombing in same area as (b)

(d) Shelling from the French coast between Dover and Dungeness.

1. The best protection will be provided as follows:-

(a) and (c) by sailing all ships in convoy.

(b) By making passages in daylight.

(c) By making passages in darkness except on moonlight nights.

3. Shelling as at (d) is not considered likely to be a serious menace.

4. It is generally considered that all ships should sail in convoy, that the holding of ships in the Downs to form Convoy etc., should be avoided, and that the best time for the passage of convoys through the strait should be thoroughly examined, but is likely to be daylight.

(V.A. Dover, 1112/6)

Programme (D.O.D.(4) 1853/6, 0037/8)

War Office Sailings to France

War Diary

6.6.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

War Office Sailings to France — Programme (D.O.D.(H) 1853/6, 0037/8).

Havre, Rouen — No ships to be sailed to Havre or Rouen until further orders (Adty. 2243/6). All ships at Havre and Rouen which are ready should be sailed forthwith (D.T.D. 2254/6). Cancel my 2243/6 (D.T.D. 1049/7).

Miscellaneous

Bombardment — Following instructions to be substituted for those previously governing bombardment policy contained in Adty. 2240/22/8/39, which are hereby cancelled. (Adty. 1233/6).

Swedish destroyers — Report of 4 Swedish destroyers said to have been bought from Italy in Queenstown (N.O.I.C. Swansea, 1911/6).

Weather

	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	Variable light E. moderate in Thames.	Moderate or poor in N. Mainly good in S. fog or mist patches.	Visibility good during day except in extreme N.
Channel and Western App.	E. light or moderate.	Good in West. moderate in East.	Wind freshening from E.
Horns Reef	N. light.	Good.	Little change
Dutch coast	E.N.E. light or moderate.	Good.	Little change
Norwegian Coast	Northerly in S. Westerly in N.	Moderate.	Visibility improving except in S.W.

War Diary

6.6.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French Positions — Convoys and patrols (D.C., C144/6)

Convoys and Patrols at 1200/7 (D.C., 2339/6)

Patrols off Canary's — My 1028/5. French sloop D'IBERVILLE Withdrawn from Canary Islands area. French sloop D'ENTRECASTEAUX patrolling to south of Teneriffe. Amend your patrol area as follows and keep out of sight of land. (F.O.C.N.A., 1036/6 to PATROCLUS)

British Positions — Warships and Convoys (D.C. to B.N.L.O. Marseau, 1919/6)

South Atlantic

U.S. 3. — Date of sailing, route (C. in C., S.A. 1107/6)

Italian Shipping — Itlaian ships on S. American coast are being ordered to return to S. American ports, and sailings from those ports are held up; but Italian ships at Monte Video continue to load. Two Tankers were ordered today to take refuge in Mexico; ENIANI has been told to cease making her daily position and, as well as two other ships, to make for Las Palmas at full speed.

CONTE GRANDE — Advts. announcing sailing for Europe 13/6 have been discontinued. (B.C. Pernambuco 1005/6)

Mediterranean

Italian Waters Mined — Italian Naval Authorities give notice that from today the waters within twelve miles of the coasts of Italy Albania and Italian colonies and possessions are dangerous to navigation and must not be entered without a pilot. (N.A. Rome, 1039/6)

War Diary

6.6.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean. Contd.

MINAGLIA

British ss OPORTO reports having sighted her at 1200 G.M.T./4 45 miles S.W. from Maritimus steering toward Pantellaria and that she now has two masts. (S.O (1) Gib. 1200/6)

Italian Preparations

Addition to list of transports given in 2300/1. Rumoured (D 3) that mines laid off Trapani communication between Italy and Greece and between Italy and Malta has been stopped (N.A. Rome 1833/6)

Oil Fuel

Supply for Meditn. Fleet (4th S.L. 1627/6)

Security of Suez Canal

Your 59 of 5/6 I am of opinion that organisation in Canal Area requires overhaul. In this case it appears to t have worked particularly effectively.

As soon as Govt. permits us to hold up ships there is fully efficient organisation to do so.

Information concerning dangerous cargoes is unlikely to be received before ship is examined on arrival. There may be no time for consultation and S.B.N.O. Canal Area will act immediately, informing me and you of action taken. (C. in C. Med. 2111/6 to Ambassador, Cairo)

C. in C. Med. 2317/6

Italian Preparations Contd.

See Mediterranean Volume.

Position of merchant ships in meteorological code normally transmitted by Coltano 6 times daily has been omitted from all transmissions today. 6/6. Cypher traffic high with greater proportion of "priority" indications

Merchant ships- messages mostly ordinary in nature increase in number of urgent cypher.

Ships of Lauro Line ordered to refuel unusual ports. Scheduled sailing of Italian 457 from Genoa on June 12 cancelled. Considerable trooping activity. Air service between Malta and Italy cancelled from June 5. (Capt. O.S., ST. ANGELO, 1652/6)

War Diary

6.6. 1940
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean Contd.

Italian Ships Contraband Control

Government has decided that with exception of ships plying solely between Italy and her colonies all Italian ships whether inward or outward bound from Italy, are to be brought in for full contraband and export control, including mails and passengers. Ships are to be detained pending instructions from M.E.W. Cargoes are to be reported to M.E.W. and no holdback undertakings are to be accepted or referred to M.E.W. or Rome. Ships' Navicerts are revoked. In the event of Italy attempting to prevent the exercise of belligerent rights by escorting or conveying their merchant ships you are to act in accordance with the Naval Prize Manual. (1st S.L., 1739/6, to C. in C.S.O.', ADEn, Port Said, etc., and C. in C.'s Mediterranean, East Indies, etc.,)

Oil Reserve

Stocks at Haifa (4th S.L. 1627/6)

East Indies

Cotton at Port Sudan

S.O. Red Sea Force reports that there are 20,000 tons of cotton value 1½ million pounds warehoused Port Sudan and listed for shipment. Suggest arrangements be made to lift this to a safer place as soon as possible. (C. in C. 1901Z/6)

Interception of Italian Ships

Re Admty. 1723/5 Ships named which do not call at Aden and have not passed Perim are to be intercepted and boarded if possible and taken to Aden under escort or armed guard. Ships named which are met with N. of Perim are to be taken to Aden or Suez whichever is nearer CICILE, PHOMETHEO, IINDIA are probably at Massawa re arming. (C. in C., 1729Z/6 to N.O.I.C. Aden)

Admty. 1723/5. Request confirmation that eight ships named are to be diverted using armed guard if necessary. (F.O.I.C. Aden, 1357/6)

War Diary

6.6.1940
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies Contd.

Italian Destroyers

Movements reported on June 2 and 3. C.S. 4. reported Centre Peak light not burning June 3. (C. in C., E.I. 0822Z/6)

PROTECTOR

Is to wear Red Ensign. (C. in C., E.I., to N.O.I.C., Aden, 0956Z/6)

Italian Warships at Kismayu

N.O.I./C Kilindini reports 4 warships (no S/M's) reported arrived at Kismayu. Instructed to obtain further details (C. in C. E.I. 0859Z/6)

American & West Indies

ANTEO

(Italian Tanker) instructed by owners to remain Caripito. Now anchored off Juiria (S.O (1) Kingston 1817/6)

COMORIN

Endurance unsuitable for convoy escort duties. (C.in.C. A.&.I. 1751/6)

CONTE BIANCAMINO

Italian, 25,000 tons, ordered to remain port Balboa U.S. Jurisdiction, until further indication. (Reuter, Panama, 1745/6)

China

Communications

Governor General N.E.I. has authorised R.A. Batavia to establish complete communication service between Allies in Far East. (R.A. Malaya 0515Z/6)

Australia

AUSTRALIA

Not degaussed. Request work be taken in hand as convenient. (A.C.N.B., 0259Z/6 to Admty)

New Zealand

HECTOR

N.Z.N.B. agrees to withdrawal but would like to keep her until 24/6 (N.Z.N.B. 0111Z/6)

War Diary

6.6.1940.
Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

RHAKOTIS

(Arrived Antofagasta 27/5(is taking on 700 tons of oil (I.C. 0473/40) HAPAG applied to Union Oil Wo, Valparaiso for delivery of 700 tons diesel oil to RHAKOTIS at Antofagasta. Request steps to prevent (C.in C., A.N.I. 1132/6) to Admty.)

War Diary

6.6.1940.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

CARINTHIA

Torpedoed in 55.13'N 10.40' W (CARINTHIA 1412/6) WREN, VOLUNTEER, GLEANER and tug MARAUDER proceeding to assist (C. in C. Rosyth 1629/6, F.O.I.C. Greenock 1631/6, C. in C. H.F. 1642/6) S/M in vicinity, position 55.13'N 10.39'W (CARINTHIA 1531/6) Contacted by aircraft in 55.13' W at 1617 Lying stopped. At 1615 contacted French S/M depot ship and 3 submarines bound for Brest. (Donibristle 2310/6) Still afloat at 1450/7 with wren and VOLUNTEER in company (D.C. 0754/7) Tug MARAUDER had her in tow by 1200 (D.C.N.S 278).
State of ship. Asking for Admty advice re flooding and beaching. 320 of ship's company have been transferred to escort vessel (From CARINTHIA 1535/7 C. in C. Rosyth 1914/7) CARINTHIA sank 2142 (GLEANER 2143/7) 2 officers and 2 ratings were killed by the explosion when the ship was torpedoed. (D.C.N.S. 328)

SNARE Sunk 3/6

Finnish (2317 tons) ~~Docked~~ Dakar from Greenock was torpedoed off Finisterre. Crew, less one K, picked up by Greek KYRIAKOULA and landed at Queenstown 6/6. Some of crew were wounded by shrapnel (D.C.N.S. 277) Press report states that submarine opened fire without warning.

SEVERN

Attacked by U-Boat 0207/6

SKANDIA Sunk (5/6)

Danish 185 tons. Sunk by mine off Gothenburg? or Ving? (Lloyds)

SHEAF MEAD Sunk 27/5

Was torpedoed without warning and sunk 1250/27/5 in 43.48'N 12.32'E (I.C. 0474/40)

ST CAMILLE Sunk 26/5

French (3274 tons) was mined and sunk off Dunkirk 26/5 (D.S. 276)

ST. LAWING

Mined and sunk 6/6 in North Sea about 60 miles E of Flamborough Hd. (D.S. 276)

FRANCES MASSEY

British (4212 tons) Sunk by torpedo 2400 6 55.30'N 3.30'W (off N.W. Ireland) All crew lost except master- Cargo 7200 tons of iron ore.

War Diary

6.6.1940
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked Contd.

HAPGALO

British (D.G.)(5081) Mined 1107 G.M.T. in the seached channel North Goodwin Buoy (N. Foreland Radio 1105/6) British 5081 tons, Gibraltar to London not in Convoy when mined but had been flag ships of H.G. 32. Was beached off Ramsgate 1525/6 3 of crew missing, 31 survivors (2 in Hospital) Magnetic mined. Still afloat in tow of tugs endeavouring to beach. Commodore and Staff landed at Ramsgate. Master and reduced crew still on board. (N.O.I.C Ramsgate, 1445/6) Feared that salvage is impossible.

Submarines Reported

0201 — 1 S/M. in position 63:6' N. 4:40' W. (SEVERN 0201/6)

2345 — Off Caldy I. Doubtful report. (C. in C. W.A. 0731/7).

2215 — U-Boat report, graded C.4, in position 020 degrees Kenbay Head, 1½ miles. (F.O.I.C. Belfast). D.4. (I.C.0474/40).

2245 — Coastguard Peel, Isle of Man, report U-Boat surfacing 000 deg. Peel, 2 miles, course 310 deg. CUTTY SARK ordered to hunt. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2335/6).

1714 — Enemy S/M. in vicinity of 56:48' N. 01:50' E. Have lost contact. TETRARCH 1714/6). Informing submarines on patrol. (R.A.S. 2229/6). Possibly Allied (I.C. 0474/40).

1315 — Shore report, U-Boat 51:32' N. 10:16' W. (1 mile off Dowsey Head, course W. on surface. C.2. (I.C. 0474/40).

Estimated Dispositions.

Possibly one still in Western Approaches.
One West of Hebrides homeward bound.
One North of Scotland homeward bound.
One in Northern part of North Sea homeward bound, probably from Norwegian Coast.
Possibly one in Moray Firth.
One in 63:6' N. 4:40' E. at 0201/6.
Possibly one in Eastern end of English Channel. (D.D.I.C. 1238/6).

War Diary

6.6.1940.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING (Contd.)

Submarines Attacked

0715 — By KINGSTON OLIVINE S 50 E 3 miles Dungeness (V.A.Dover 0950/6)

1919/4 — Anson aircraft of 217 Sqdn. attacked U-Boat in position 49.24'N., 05.29'W at 1919/4. Sighted on surface and attacked with two 100-lb bombs, one of which was seen to burst on impact near conning tower and second near miss on port beam. Consider U-Boat seriously damaged and possibly destroyed. (C. in C., W.A., 1947/6)

1145 — SS HIGHWOOD fired one shot at submarine 255° 2 miles from 50.9'N 5.47'W (north of Land's End) and bombers also attacked (N.O.I.C. Newport 1142/7)

War Diary

7.6.1940.

SITUATION REPORT

Invasion

It is reported on very reliable authority that large scale maps of British coastal towns are being collected by the German Air Force, though these maps would appear to be of too large a scale for navigation, and may therefore be required for bombing, parachutists, or other means of attack.

There is no evidence at present of seaborne attack. On the other hand, during the raid on Hamburg on night 2/3 June a ship loaded with light tanks was sunk; these are unlikely to have been loaded for the western front owing to the state of the French ports.

26 M.T.B's of the latest type are said to have concentrated in the North Sea Operation zone since 30/5. This and other indications confirm that M.T.B's are preparing to take part in future naval operations, and it becomes clear that M.T.B's are likely to play an important part in any seaborne invasion. (C.I.C. Reports Nos 7 & 8.)

U.K.

From 8/6 no merchant ship is to approach the coasts of the U.K. between sunset and sunrise, except in an organised British convoy.

Air Raids on U.K.

168 raids were plotted between 2230/6 and 0335/7. Bombs were dropped at several places, including Cranwell Upwood Aerodrome (Hants), Scunthorpe where the Iron Works were hit, Appleby Wordingham Plate Mills, and near Firth Brown Steel Works.

Hostile aircraft are reported to have been engaged probably mine laying, on the South coast and mine laying unit was active between Calais and Le Havre.

Submarine off Ireland

During the last 3 days 3 ships in addition to CARINTHIA have been torpedoed off N.W. Ireland.

Iceland

During the afternoon rumours were received of the landing of a strong German force on the East Coast of Iceland. The RENOWN and REPULSE, whic with 2 cruisers and 5 destroyers were at sea to intercept the two unknown ships sighted between Norway and Icela

S/

War Diary

7.6.1940.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT

Iceland. Contd.

5/6, were sent to investigate, the Northern Patrol ships to assist. The O.C. troops on the East coast reported however, during the night that there was no German landing and he considered the rumour groundless.

Mining

Magnetic mines were laid in the Nms last night. Portsmouth was closed this morning but was re opened this afternoon.

HOLDFAST

The Downs guardship HOLDFAST was unsuccessfully attacked by E-Boats during the night. Two torpedoes ran ashore at Deal. V.A. Dover has suggested that the Downs guardships be dispensed with.

Mediterranean

Reuter reports that all Italian merchant ships have been ordered to make for neutral ports but there is no confirmation from Rome, though there is a certain nervousness amongst ship owners and a desire to "stand by"

Sailing of REX on 11th June has been cancelled; and VULCANIA 25,000 tons 21 knots due Algiers 10th June and Genoa 11th June is believed to be only large fast Italian ship away from home waters. (N.A.Rome 1814/8 to D.N.I.

There is a report said to be from a sure source that 40 ships are ready at Genoa and Trieste respectively, each group to embark an army corps.

French Ports

Havre, Fecamp, Caen, Granville, St. Malo open to traffic. Rouen, Cherbourg open to D.G. ships and Dieppe to small D.G. boats. (Cherbourg 1351/7 to Admty)

War Diary

7.6.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

	Defence of U.K.
No Ships to Approach Coast at Night	From 8th June no M/V to approach within three miles of U.K. coasts and ports between sunset and sunrise except in an authorised British convoy, and except vessels on passage using a recognised coastal searched channel (Admty. Broadcast 0132/7)
	WZ 5 13 will not effect entry of War Vessels into defended ports using private or local Recognition Signals. Elsewhere in U.K. Warships are to conform unless operations necessitate approach within 3- mile limit (D. of L.D. 0136/7)
Ireland	Your 2354/1. R.M. Striking Force cannot be sepcially provided. Any force required for an urgent operation must be found from R.M. Plymouth. (D.O.D.M. 1140/7 to A.C.W.A)
Spithead	Admty. concur in 35 Brigade proposal that 3" case be mounted on Horsesand and No Mans Forts for defence against aircraft minelaying. Request approval. (D. of L.D. to Air Min. 2128/7)
	W.Z. 513 prohibition intended facilitate identification of Enemy Vessels and desirable reduce exemptions to minimum. But exceptions considered necessary may be granted. D. of L.D. 2255/7)
Port Schemes	Extent of coast line to which they are to apply (D. of L.D. 0031/7 to H Home Forces)
Portsmouth	Port scheme. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0207/7)
Littlehampton	Port scheme (R.N.O. Littlehampton 1210/7 to Admty)
Portsmouth	Port is now open (C. in C. Portsmouth 1231/7 to Admty.)
Tees Hartlepool	Port scheme (H.O.I.C. Tees-Hartlepool 1005/7)

War Diary

7.6.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K. Contd.

Anti E-Boat Patrol

Request Anti E-Boat Patrol with flares be established during dark hours in area N. Foreland, 51. N 1. 30'E, 51.30'N 2.30'N 2.30'E. with maximum effort over Goodwin Sands one hour either side high water. (V.A. Dover, 1551/7 to Coastal Command)

Methil

Re Port scheme. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1148/7)

Lights

Port schemes should include measures re lights. All navigation lights in your command which are unnecessary for safe navigation should be extinguished as from receipt of this signal and action reported to Hydrog (D. of L.D. 13507)

To A.C.O.S. Rosyth, Nore, Portsmouth, Humber, Tyne, Harwich, Dover. Applies to E coast of your command (D. of L.D. Z 132/8 to C. in C. Rosyth)

Situation

Admiralty appreciation of Naval Situation. (1st S.L. 1958/7) See Operations Volume.

Aberdeen.

Re Port Scheme (N.O. Aberdeen 1904/7 to Admty.)

War Diary

7.6. 1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations- French Coast

Air Reconnaissance

Requested that frequent photographic air reconnaissance be made of Ostend, Calais and Boulogne to afford immediate information of use of them by enemy S/m's. M.T.B's or other craft, and that analysis of photographs be forwarded to me without delay. (V.A.Dover, 1054/7 to C. in C. Nore.)

Destroyers to Bombard

East of Treport, destroyers to bombard and Troops or Vehicles seen on roads without further orders. West of Treport British Command have been informed two destroyers coming over and will inform ships of any bombardment required. (A.C.N.C.H. 1113/7 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

WANDERER
VESPER

Rendezvous off Dover and proceed with all despatch towards. Dieppe. Object bombardment support of 51st Division on Allied left flank. C. in C. Portsmouth will give you further orders. (V.A. Dover 1040/7 to WANDERER)

Expect arrive Treport 1500/7 (V.A. Dover 1142/7 to Admty.)

Only targets north of River Bresle to be engaged without reference to Military. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1216/7 to WANDERER)

Coastline inspected from Dieppe to Cayeux. No troops seen N. of Treport. Main road invisible and consider no good target will be offered in area inspected. Very slight air activity. (WANDERER 1800/7 to C. in C. Portsmouth.

Unless contrary instructions received f: Army retire to N.W. during dark hours returning to supporting position at dawn (C. in C., Portsmouth 1950/7 to WANDERER)

Communication between VESPER and Army n now reliable. Am landing an Officer and Signalman at Dieppe to establish visual link. (WANDERER 2115/7)

War Diary

7.6.1940.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Havre, Operation XD

Party H to proceed to Dover as soon as possible. D.O.D.H. to C. in C., Nore.7/6)

Request you can arrange sail party H to Havre on arrival from Chatham. (D.O.D.H. to V.A. Dover 7/6)

Narvik

Enquiry (D.O.D.H. 7/6 to F.O. Narvik)

Correction to F.O. Narvik 1702/6 (F.O. Narvik 1615/7)

Operation C.P.

Dieppe to be blocked. Operation C.P. Request sail H.M. Ships KAUPO JACOBUS and RIVER TYNE to arrive off Dieppe 0300/9. One destroyer for Senior Officer and two M.T.B's or fast motor craft will be required for evacuation. Air Ministry have been asked for air escort and fighter protection while at Dieppe. D.D.O.D. 2034/7 to C.in C., Portsmouth)

VEGA is required for this operation. She should arrive Portsmouth not later than 0700/8 (D.O.D.H. 2148/7 to V.A. Dover)

Arrangements should be made to light Point d'Ailly from 0001/9 (D.D.O.DH. 2027/7 to S.N.O. Havre)

War Diary

7.6.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations- Iceland

German Landing Report

Following from Brigadier Reykjavik begins Strong rumours large German force landing Lodmundarfjordur 15 miles north of my detachment isolated at Seydisfjordur. Recommend careful aerial reconnaissance these Fjordur and others nearby earliest possible. (D.O.D.H. 1300/7 to C.inC. H.F.)

Ships to Investigate

Admty's. 1300/7. Proceed to investigate at once take charge of Northern Patrol to assist search (C. in C. H.F. 1402/7 to B.C.I)

RENOWN, REPULSE, and five Destroyers MAORI, FOXHOUND, FORESTER, ZULU, KELVIN proceeding Lodmunder Fiord 27 knots. NEWCASTLE and SUSSEX being sent on ahead to report and act as requisite. (F.C.C.B.S. 1500/7 to C. in C. H.F.)

If enemy not found Lodmundar Fjord investigate all Fjords East Coast of Iceland between 064° 30'N and 066° 10'N using aircraft cruisers and a destroyer. (C. in C., H.F. 1538/7 to F.O.C.B.C.S.)

MAORI detailed to proceed Seydisfjord to communicate with Military (F.O.C.B.C.S 1712/7 to C. in C., H.F.)

A/S Trawlers CAPE COMORIN and AYRSHIRE carrying out independent reconnaissance N. coast of Iceland. (D.O.D.H. 1850/7 to B.C.I)

Unconfirmed

S/C Seydisfjord reports no confirmation of landing in Lodmundar Fjord. He considers rumour groundless. MAORI remaining Seydisfjord till telephone communication established with Fjords to N.E. SUNDERLAND reports no sign of enemy between 064° 10'N and 065° 39'N. F.O.C.B.C.S. 2143/7 to C. in C. H.F.)

2 Ships Sighted

Reliable information from Vestmannaeyjar Island. 63. 25'N 20. 18'W., 2 large ships steaming westerly direction sighted 1400 sailed 30 miles S.S.W. Walrus still out of action. (Alabaster, Reykjavik, recd. from W.O., 1800/7)

War Diary

7.6.1940
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Iceland, Contd.

Brigadier Reykjavik reports reliable informant states two large ships sighted at 1400/7 30'SSW of Vestmannaeyjar Island steering westerly (D.C. to C. in C., H.F. 2208/7)

Every endeavour is to be made to intercept these two ships (V.C.N.S. 2251/7 to C. in C. H.F.)

War Diary

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Cherbourg	Bombing raid also probable mine-dropping. Wharves, quays, and rail intact, some damage to roadways but unessential except at Approach Raid duration 40 minutes. (B.N.L.O. Marceau to Adty. 1300/7).
Fair Isle	Between Orkneys and Shetlands machine-gunned by a/c at 1018/7.
British A/C Markings	Entire undersurfaces of all British Fighter A/C are to be painted very pale sky blue. All roundels on underside of main planes to be removed. (Adty. A. Message 2005/7).
British Patrols	Normal patrols were flown except Meteorological and Reconnaissance off Norwegian and Danish coasts cancelled owing to weather. Air escort was provided for A.M.C. CARINTHIA and S.S. EROS, and fighter protection was protection was provided for a Portsmouth to Cherbourg Troop Convoy from 2130/7 till dark (D.C.N.S. 278).

Mining

Minelaying Operation	Completed. Position of mines (V.A. Dover 0509/7, 1519/17) (Probably refers to POLLUX, French M/L, which laid mines near N. Goodwin Lt.V. during night 6/7).
Exists for forces from Sheerness and Dover.	C. in C. Nore 1240/6. Explaining how necessary exits will be provided. (V.A.Dover, 1721/6).
Ems mined.	Magnetic mines were laid in the Ems during the night. 6/7 (D.C.N.S. 277).
Portsmouth	Is closed (C. in C., Portsmouth 0842/7) Reopened this afternoon (I.C. 0475/40).
Poole Harbour	Parachute mines observed in approx. 50:38:24 N. 1:53:30 W. and 50:39:12 N., 1:54:42 W. (I.C. 0475/40).
Cromarty Firth	A magnetic mine was exploded about 1½ m. from position where SAN TIBURCIO was mined 4/5. (I.C. 0475/40).

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

North Sea — SPEARFISH reports scraping mine mooring wire in 52:49 N., 3:34 E. (45 miles W.S.E. Texel) (I.C. 0475/40).

Clyde Mine-sweeping. — Wish to emphasize that no M/S trawlers, Paddle or Fast Minesweepers in Clyde. In view of importance of Clyde shipping request further consideration of matter. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1741/7 to Adty.).

Enemy Intelligence.

E Boats off Scheldt. — A/C on night patrol sighted 2 M.T.Bs bearing 360° distance 2 miles course 070° position 51:45 N. 3:36 E. (500 Sqdn. 0331/7 to Chatham).

My 0331. Enemy position 51:50 N. 3:40 E. course 060° speed 20 knots. (500 Sqdn. 0429/7 to R.A.F. Chatham).

HOLDFAST attacked. — The Downs Guardship HOLDFAST was unsuccessfully attacked by E Boats during night. Two torpedoes ran ashore at Deal. (D.C. 0754/7 to B.N.L.O. Marceau).

Aerodrome — Report considered absolutely reliable that Germans making Aerodrome at Voss, N.E. of Bergen, with feverish activity. (Capt. Clover, Goteborg 1703/6 to D.N.I.)

30 vessels — 30 unknown vessels in 52:3 N., 3:53 E. course 45:15 knots at 2232/6 (V.A.S. 0059/7 to submarines on patrol).

At 2330/7 the Dover R.D.F. station reported a number of Surface Vessels 15 miles South Vessels 15 miles South of Dover (D.C.N.S. 278).

EMDEN — Left Oslo a.m. 7th escorted and in tow. (D.C.N.S. 278).

ADMIRAL SCHEER — Afloat in dry dock at Wilhelmshaven where she has been repaired. A/C report. (D.D.I.C. 1137/7 to AIG 45).

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

SCHULSCHIFF DEUTSCHLAND — Sailing ship, 1257 tons, has been ordered to Swinemunde at beginning of July for refit (Note. SEEADLER was used in last war as a raider.) (I.C. 0475/40).

Ore trade — It is reported that the first German ore ships arrived at Lulea 28/5 and are leaving at rate of 2 a day, average size of ships 3000 tons. Danish and Norwegian ships may be used for this purpose (I.C. 0475/40).

2 Enemy ships sighted off Iceland — See Iceland.

Shipping

Transport of troops to France — French Adty. agree to EL KANTARA, EL MANZOUR, EL DJEZAIR, VILLE D'ALGER, and possibly VILLE D'ORAN to assist in transport of troops from Plymouth to Brest. Ships will be under orders of Admiral Ouest who has been instructed to arrange direct with you and to assist in provision of escorts. (D,O.D.(H) 1812/7 to C. in C., W.A.).

Convoys to arrive at dusk — In view of present enemy Mining activity and possible M.T.B. attack convoys from Southampton to Cherbourg should be sailed to arrive at dusk (D.O.D.H. 2246/7 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

BROCKLEY COMBE — Newport to Rouen, left Barry Roads 2300/6 which was too late for her to be stopped (N.O.I.C. Barry 0036/7) (See 6/6 Mining - no ships to be sailed to Havre or Rouen).

Havre, Rouen — Cancel my 2243/6 (No more ships to sail to Havre or Rouen) (D.T.D. 1049/7).

War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Guardships in Downs — Suggestion they be dispensed with as result of changed conditions regarding shipping in Downs and vulnerability of ships at anchor to M.T.B. attacks. (V.A. Dover 1056/7) V.A. Dover's 1056/7. Act on own initiative (C. in C., Portsmouth 1156/7 to VESPER, WANDERER).

Re E. boats attacks on Convoys — Suggestion that large proportion of first 10 or 12 Fairmile Boats be allocated to Nore Command and Dover for counter attack in view of increasing danger of E. Boats attack on Convoys; and suggest same procedure with 72 feet M.Ls. (C. in C., Nore 1204/7 to Adty.)

Weather

	Wind	Weather	Visibility
North Sea (a) W. half	Light & variable mainly from South.	Extensive fog.	Generally poor or very poor.
(b) E. half	N. moderate.	Fine.	Mainly good.
Horns Reef	N. moderate.	Fine with slight haze.	Mainly good.
Channel	Light & variable.	Local fog or haze.	Moderate generally poor in fog.
W. Approaches	Light and variable.	Local fog or haze.	Moderate generally poor in fog.
Norway	W. or N.W. moderate fresh locally.	Fine with occasional showers in N.	Generally good.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

GIMMA — Italian 1542 tons, with general cargo, was boarded 7/6 and on refusing to enter Gibraltar, was sent in under armed guard. (F.O.C.N.A. 1754/7).

South Atlantic

Falklands — S.A.D's 222/6 April shows necessity for W/T receiving watch at Falkland Islands W/T. Report whether this can be arranged. If sufficient ratings not available watch should be relinquished on Rugby Broadcast. (M. 1651/7 to C. in C., S.A.).

Germans in South America — Possibility of trouble engineered by Germans and Italians in Brazil. Brazilian Govt. showing more firmness. (N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 1409/7).

Mediterranean

UMBRIA — Native pilot who was on board says ship's officers surprised at being allowed through canal. They did not wish to go to Massawa for fear of being absorbed in army on outbreak of war and that persuasion of material nature to Chief Officer might result in ships not reaching Massawa (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1043/7).
Reply to Adty. 0232/7. (C. in C., Med., 2051/7)

Italian Transports — Following from B.N.L.O. to Admiral, Sud, addressed C. in C., Med. Sure information from French source, 40 merchant ships at Genoa and 40 at Trieste this morning, every group ready to embark an army corps. T.O.O. 1745/6. (S.O.I., Malta, 0245/7).

Shipping — British and Norwegian ships now ready to sail in Egyptian, Palatian, Syrian and Cyprian ports bound westward through Mediterranean are to do so forthwith, proceeding direct to Gibraltar. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1808/7).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

G.H.Q. G.H.Q. will assume Administrative control of Egypt, Palestine, Sudan with effect from 8/6. Sudan then comes directly under G.H.Q. on all matters. Somaliland already under G.H.Q. (C. in C., M.E., 1955/6, recd. from W.O., 1640/7).

SAGONA Norwegian, in Malta for 6 weeks. Oil not removed by Italians. In view of risk of destruction consider she should depart forthwith. (F.O.I.C. Malta, 1107/7).

British and Norwegian ships ready to sail in Suez Canal Area bound through Red Sea are to do so forthwith. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 181 /7 to N.O. Port Said).

MIRAGLIA Italian sea-plane carrier left Tripoli 5th June. (S.O.I. Alexandria 1139/7 to Adty.)

East Indies

Territorial Waters A/C required for reconnaissance should if possible keep outside 3-mile limit. If required take offensive action territorial waters are to be entered if necessary; but A/C should not cross Iranian coast. (Air Min. 1545/7 to A.H.Q. Iraq).

Italian Tankers The Anglo-Iranian Oil Co. is reported to be refusing to supply oil to Italian tankers in the river at Abadan (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 1714Z/7).

China

Dutch patrols In N.E.I. (Capt. S/S Singapore, 0442Z/7)

Ichang Request for gunboat protection from Butterfield and Swire if Japanese capture Ichang. (N.L.O., Shanghai, 0803Z/7).

War Diary

7.6.40.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Foreign Stations

SCHARNHORST — Reported that she will leave Kobe for Yokohama in the middle of June. (I.C.0475/40).

War Diary

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Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

EROS

British (5888 tons) Montreal to Liverpool, was torpedoed 55.30'N 8.30'W (off N.W. Ireland) Sinking rapidly. (EROS 0543/7) Torpedoed 0430 about 20 miles N. of Bloody Foreland (D.C. 0754/7) Latest position here 55.33'N 8.26'W sinking rapidly (Malin Hd. 0647/7) Taking to boats (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0446/7) Intercept at 0428 G.M.T. de Malin Head Radio S.O.S. de EROS 55.30'N 8.30'W mined sinking rapidly (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0430/7) PAYNTER standing by to pick up crew, 55.34'N 8.40'W Ship might be saved if tug MARAUDER is sent at once. From PAYNTER 0830/7 (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0906/7) Destroyer to investigate and hunt, Anson Aircraft co-operating (C. in C. Rosyth 0635/7 Tug BANDIT should have reached EROS, 1630/7 with orders to tow. Cargo most valuable. C. in C. Rosyth to BERKELEY 1106/7) Beached Tory Island at 2050/7 Armed guard from GLEANER, and HONDUROS and GLEANER standing by Trawler PAYNTER has all officers and crew on board and salvage of cargo of 4 aeroplanes etc., being arranged from Liverpool. D.C.N.S. 278)

STANCOR

(798 tons) sunk by gunfire from U-Boat at 59.28'N 6.38'W off Faroe Islands at 2215/5 eight survivors landed Stornoway 0915/7 and ten missing in lifeboat. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0951/7 to C. in C., Rosyth) Master of STANCOR states that crew of U-Boat were very young and from silhouettes considers she was U 27-36 class. Crew had no beards perhaps indicating outward passage. Gunfire inaccurate but ship set on fire and appeared to be sinking by stern when last seen. Master did not actually see her sink. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1525/7)

Submarines Reported

1840/5

Periscope reported sighted 1840/5 at 31.57'N 14.33'W by French FALLIS. Report doubtful and unconfirmed. (F.O.C.N.A. to PATROCLUS 2554/7)

1314/7

Unknown enemy unit, prob-ably U-Boat, at 52.5'N 12.25'W D/F report. Unreliable fix. (D.N.I. 1355/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

One in Western Approaches
One near Tory Island, N. Ireland, 0543/7.
One N.W. Hebrides homeward bound.
One E. Shetlands homeward bound.
One off Norway. North of 60 degs. N (D.D.I.C. 1412/7)

War Diary.

8.6.40.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT.

Iceland.

The rumours of a German landing in Iceland appear to be unfounded. RENOWN and 2 destroyers were recalled to Scapa early this morning, whilst REPULSE with the 2 cruisers and the destroyers are to return after searching the fiord on the east side of Iceland. CIRCASSIA, A.M.C., was ordered to Reykjavik to get in touch with British Minister and Authorities there.

Norway.

Operation Alphabet (evacuation of Norway) was reported at 1951 completed.

Considerable concentrations of Transports, Troops, and Armoured Vehicles are reported at Aalborg, Oslo, Stavanger, and Christiansund.

Western Front.

WANDERER and VESPER carried out an indirect bombardment of the main road from Abbeville to Treport early this morning, firing over 500 rounds of H.E.; but, communication with the army at noon having become possible only by visual signal via Dieppe and despatch-rider, further bombardment was considered dangerous and VESPER remained at Dover with CARDIFF at one hours notice till contact could be made with N.L.O. 51st Division.

Havre,
Rouen.

No more ships to be sailed to these ports at present; and ships already at Rouen are to unload and leave with all despatch.

Dieppe

Operation C.P. was postponed and ships returned to Spithead.

Italian Shipping.

It is becoming increasingly clear that Italian merchant ship sailings have been suspended and those in British ports instructed to sail without delay and those at sea to make for neutral ports.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1809/8).

Report has been received (B.3) that 5 Italian ships with cargoes of copper which are due shortly at Gibraltar will be escorted and that if they are detained at Gibraltar Mussolini will declare war.
(N.A. Rome, 1944/8.)

Aircraft.....

War Diary

8.6.40.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

Italian Shipping (Contd.)

Aircraft observed a large Italian transport bound for Tobruk with an escort of 2 destroyers. This is the first example of escorts being provided for Italian shipping.

Mining

Magnetic mines were exploded at Portland and Cromarty Firth; the S.S. HARDINGHAM (D.G.) was mined and sunk 1½ miles from South Knock Buoy; and at 1915 a heavy explosion was reported S.E. of Newhaven.

Air

Enemy aircraft were again active along the south coast and over the eastern counties after dark 7/8, but no bombs are reported to have been dropped.

British air patrols were restricted by weather during 8/6 and at 2000/8 all further operations in the southern part of the North Sea were suspended owing to fog lying over the coast aerodromes.

War Diary

8.6.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Personnel Sailings. Addition to 1853/6 (D.O.D.(H) 0037/8).

Piers Re. (Hofor London 1140/8).

Motor craft Laid up on shore or at moorings and on large locks which might be of use to enemy if they succeed in landing by sea or air. To be immobilised (D.D. of L.D. 1448/8 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Poole Harbour Examination service established. Port is closed at night. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1110/8).

Yarmouth Blockship (D. A/S W. 1508/8).

Patrols Additional patrols are being established in areas 82A and 2F tonight (Capt. A/P Lowestoft 1720/8).

Aberdeen Port scheme (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1904/7).

Lewis Guns Allocated to Scapa, to be reduced by 50% to enable auxiliary vessels and patrol craft now coming with service to be armed. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2245/8).

Scapa Urging that blockships from the Forth be sent to Scapa at once since gaps exist in all sounds through which E boats could enter. Matter concerns safety of Fleet. (C. in C., H.F. 0014/8).

Capital Ships It is considered desirable under present conditions that there should be not less than 2 capital ships available to proceed south in case of invasion. (1st S.L. 1742/8).

Shipping Signals Reporting by W/T at earliest moment of enemy aircraft or surface vessels by British bombers flying over the North Sea. Example. (Air Min., 1220/8).

Defence against E. boats Your 1204/7. Not considered that Fairmile M.Ls are best for anti-E.boat duties. M.A/S Bs will however be allocated to Nore Command for this purpose (A.C.N.S.(H) 1741/8 to C. in C., Nore).

War Diary

8.6.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K. (Contd.)

Firth of Forth — Closed at night (Hydrog. 1124/8).

Peterhead — Port scheme (N.O.I.C. Peterhead, 1508/8).

Kirkwall — Do. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1530/8, 1845/8).

Wick — Do. (R.N.O. Wick, 1700/7).

Gt. Yarmouth — Do. (N.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth 1735/7).

Invasion Intelligence — Conference at Air Min. to discuss warning intelligence of invasion. (Air Min., 1837/8).

South Coast Zone — Your 1711/6, requesting special zone for aliens on South Coast. Plans are being made for extension of special zone on coast. (Hd. of N.L. 1545/8 to C. in C., W.A.).

Blyth — Amending P/G 1804/6. (N.O.I.C. Blyth, 1242/8).

Movements

Fleet fogbound — Ships at Scapa are fogbound. (C. in C., H.F., 0301/8).

DORSETSHIRE — Sail for Gibraltar with all despatch 10/6. On arrival ARETHUSA return to U.K. (D.O.D.(F) 1855/8 to C. in C., W.A., F.O.C.N.A.)

Norwegian warships — Which may arrive Thorshaven without warning (D.O.D.(H) 1653/8).

Submarines — 0600/9 (D.C. 1953/8).

War Diary

8.6.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Ships operating on French Coast

Have informed Army of ships orders to leave but unable obtain their views because of dense fog. Their last information received was that bombardment might be imperative. Will evacuate liaison officer and M/B crew and sail for Dover unless army persists in asking for co-operation VESPER in company (WANDERER 0500/8 to Adty.).

Return to Dover (D.C. 0015/8 to WANDERER).

My 0500 Army now state bombardment of a position North of Tréport imperative. Ships capable of indirect bombardment appear urgently required (WANDERER 0610/8).

Request fighter protection now off Tréport (WANDERER 0652/8).

Am carrying out bombardment north of Tréport (WANDERER 0743/8).

In view of your 0610/8 cancel Adty. 0015/8. Direct fighter protection not available but fighters should be operating near you. (D.C. 0755/8 to WANDERER, VESPER).

Cancel my 0652. Bombardment completed (WANDERER 0756/8).

Report on bombardment (WANDERER 0810/8).

CARDIFF raise steam for full speed (D.C. 0850/8). Report situation and whether there is useful work that you can do. Would it be of use to send CARDIFF who is capable of indirect bombardment when stopped only (V.C.N.S. 1037 to WANDERER).

Your 1037 situation at 0800 was observed. I was last in touch with military at 0400 who then stated bombardment by indirect fire would be of great value. Communication now only by V/S via Dieppe and despatch rider. Consider bombardment dangerous until reliable W/T communication established with front. WANDERER's 37 type set unsuitable as link. CARDIFF stopped would probably be vulnerable but her presence in area would be advantageous in case W/T communication improves (WANDERER 1215/8).

VESPER proceed to Dieppe and endeavour to get in touch with army. CARDIFF proceed towards Dieppe in readiness to carry out bombardment. Ships to withdraw if bombardment impracticable. Spotting aircraft will be ready. (V.C.N.S. 1418/8).

CARDIFF, VESPER remain at Dover at one hour's notice. They will not proceed until contact has been made with N.L.O. attached to 51st Divn. (D.O.D.(H) 1027/8).

War Diary

8.6.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Coast of France and Low Countries.

Situation in ports

Ymuiden 5/6. Possibly 5 M.T.Bs in harbour.
Willemsoord 2/6. No enemy warships except M.T.B. entering harbour.

Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Hook, Antwerp, Ostend, Zeebrugge, Dunkirk	5/6	Nothing of interest.
Flushing	4/6	do.
Calais, Boulogne	6/6	do.

Photographic reconnaissance being carried out as often as possible. (D.D.I.C. 1528/8).

War Office Sailings

A.M. 0037/8, re War Office sailings. Destination of these sailings has been changed to Cherbourg. (D.O.D.(H) 1158/8).

Cherbourg

At 1028/8. No air raids, wharves and quays intact, port open to treated ships, some damage to roadways, rail facilities intact, L.L. sweeping continuing, traffic normal. (B.N.L.O., Marceau, 1400/8).

Point D'Ailly

Cancel my 2027/7 re lighting of Point D'Ailly. (D.C. 1607/8).

Operations Dynamo

Destroyers

Following took part.

WILD SWAN	ready
SALADIN	p.m. 9/6
VIMY	12/6
VIVACIOUS	12/6
EXPRESS	13/6
ESK	13/6
WHITSHED	13/6
WINCHELSEA	13/6
ANTHONY	14/6
ICARUS	16/6
VERITY	16/6
WINDSOR	18/6
WOLSEY	21/6
WIVERN	21/6
WESTMINSTER	7/7 (C. in C. Portsmouth 2327/8)
CODRINGTON	p.m. 9/6
VENEMOUS	18/6
SHIKARI	18/6 (ing postponed
WHITEHALL	0800/9 on 2 boilers if reboiler-
VENETIA	12/7 (C. in C., W.A. 0041/9).

War Diary

8.6.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operation Paul

1st. S.L. 0043/8 see Operation Volume.

Operation C.P. (Dieppe)

Cancel my 2034/7 Operation C.P. postponed ships are returning to Spithead (D.C. 1152/8 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Operation Clyde

Dutch coasters JUTLAND, AEGIR, CARIBIA, TWENTE, GORECHT, HONDSRUG, DOGGERSBANK to be prepared and sailed for Newhaven to be under orders of C. in C. Portsmouth (D.O.D.(H) 2238/8).
KAAT FALGA, HEBE II, JABA, ATLANTIC, ZEUS, SAN ANTONIO WEGA, RUGA, ABEL TASMAN, DESPATCH II, PRISO, PACIFIC to be prepared and will be under C. in C. Portsmouth's orders. (D.O.D.(H) 2239/8).

Norway

Your 0001/8. DEVONSHIRE proceed to Clyde. (D.O.D.(H) 1556/8 to C.S.1).

Have on board certain passengers (C.S.1 0001/8). Utmost secrecy etc. passengers to be maintained (D.O.D.(H) 1903/8, A.C.N.S.(H) 2320/8).

2 destroyers to screen DEVONSHIRE (C. in C., H.F. 0623/9).

F.O. Narvik's 1520/8. Re making contact with Norwegian convoy (C.S.1 2130/8 to WALKER, CAMPBELL).

Operation Alphabet completed. No losses. (D.C. 1951/8).

Enemy Units sunk
GLORIOUS
ORAMA
ARDENT
ACASTA

Hospital ship ATLANTIS, on passage from Narvik, reported that she saw an enemy battleship with 2 funnels and seaplanes attack a 2 funnelled transport at 0900/8. Transport, which is believed to be S.S. ORAMA, 19,840 tons, homeward bound from Narvik without troops or cargo, was still afloat when last seen.

German official broadcast at 1500/9 claimed that SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU intercepted and sank H.M.S. GLORIOUS, one destroyer, and the submarine chaser, tanker OIL PIONEER, and S.S. ORAMA.

At.....

War Diary

8.6.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Evacuation of Norway.

VANOC and VETERAN are being sent to 60:50 N., 5:00 W. to arrive 2000/9 and failing further orders to proceed thence to Scapa. (F.O. Narvik 1132/8 to C.S.1)

Harstad departures. At 1200/7 Hospital ship ATLANTIS through 66:30 N. 1:30 W. then Scapa. At 2100/7 trawlers STRATHDEVON, DULCIEBELLE, ELDORADO towing Walrus landing-skims, orders as for ATLANTIS, speed 7 knots. (F.O.I.C. Narvik, 0016/8 to Adty.)

Group 2 leaves R/V A.0200/9 at 14 knots through position 66° N. 1° W. and 63° N. 4° W. and thence to Clyde. (F.O.C. 2 C.S. 1217/8 to C. in C., Rosyth).

Group 2 consists of British ships ORONSAY, ORMONDE, DUCHESS OF YORK, ARANDORA STAR, ULSTER MONARCH, ULSTER PRINCE, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, VANDYCK. R.V. A at 0230/9 with escort COVENTRY, SOUTHAMPTON, HAVELOCK, FAME, FIREDRAKE, BEAGLE, DELIGHT, ECHO, proceeding Clyde. Party 2, ARROW, STORK, and minimum of 4 trawlers are with store ship Convoy, see my 0022/8. (F.O. Narvik 2300/8 to Adty.)

GLORIOUS escorted by ARDENT and ACASTA left position 70:17 N., 14:10 E. at 0300/8 for Scapa. (R.A.(A) 0303/8).

Loss of GLORIOUS ACASTA ARDENT

Your 0345 14th June. 8th June 1600 H.M.S. GLORIOUS approximate position 068° N. 004°,E. course 200° screened by H.M.S. ACASTA and H.M.S. ARDENT sighted enemy, believed one 8 inch gun cruiser and one 6 inch gun cruiser. Maximum visibility. Enemy opened fire 1605 range 20 thousand yards and hit with third salvo preventing aircraft flying off. Main wireless and bridge destroyed immediately and ship (? eventually) sank about 1730.

About 1600 H.M.S. ARDENT attacked, H.M.S. ACASTA laid smoke screen. H.M.S. ARDENT soon sank. After H.M.S. GLORIOUS sank H.M.S. ACASTA attacked with torpedoes. One believed hit enemy forward. H.M.S. ACASTA sank during 2nd attack.

No appreciable damage observed on enemy which approached within one mile of the men in water without stopping.

No enemy aircraft spotting.

H.M.S. GLORIOUS outranged throughout action.

Behaviour of personnel excellent.

Troop ship or Tanker not in company of H.M.S. GLORIOUS. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1631/14 to Adty.)

War Diary

8.6.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Evacuation of Norway.

Loss of GLORIOUS ACASTA ARDENT (Contd.)

OIL PIONEER was encountered and sunk earlier in the day. ORAMA was next intercepted and sunk. (German broadcast).

Report by A.B. Cyril Carter who was at after tubes in ACASTA. After GLORIOUS was sunk C.O. ACASTA decided to pass through smoke screen and attack with torpedoes. German cruisers then appeared to be in quarter line formation some distance apart, they were from other accounts rejoining, when ACASTA turned to fire HIPPER class appeared to be bow on with LEIPZIG class or 6 inch cruiser class on port quarter. 4 torpedoes fired from port side ship continued on her course engaging with guns. Flash and large splash was seen on bow of the 6 inch cruiser class and C.O. ACASTA passed word one torpedo hit at which ship's company cheered. ACASTA then turned 360° and fired remaining 4 torpedoes but no further hits observed. German ship passed Caster when he was on a raft he did not observe any damage but there was a heavy swell on and he was unable to see distinctly. Time of attack 1730/8 (C. in C., Rosyth).

HOME COMMANDS

Norway (Contd.)

Enemy Units (contd.)

At 1615/8 an intercepted message from GLORIOUS indicated that she was in contact with an enemy Naval Force.

Iceland

Your 2251 (re interception of two unknown ships) 63:20 N. 14:16 W. 065° 14 knots. Thick fog now. (CIRCASSIA to F.O.C.N. Patrol 0038/8).

From Alabaster 0025/8. Many rumours re enemy landings in Iceland, so far no foundation. Asking for ship or aircraft to call occasionally (D.C. 1145/8 to C. in C., H.F.).

Reply. I will send one A.M.C. but ask Alabaster to sift rumours so that ships of H.F. may not be drawn off on wild goose chase, such as yesterday. (C. in C., H.F. 1222/8).

My 0114/8, 0115/8. Proceed independently and operate off Reykjavik. RENOWN is returning to Scapa (F.O.C.B.C.S. 0257/8 to NEWCASTLE, REPULSE).

Am leaving REPULSE to operate off E. end of Iceland with SUSSEX, MAORI, FOXHOUND, FORTUNE. NEWCASTLE proceeding to operate off Reykjavik. RENOWN, ZULU, KELVIN returning to Scapa expect to arrive 2300/8 (F.O.C.B.C.S. 0315/8). Report of investigation (NEWCASTLE 0714/8).

After searching all fiords on East side of Iceland return with whole force including Newcastle to Scapa (C. in C., H.F. 0941/8 to REPULSE).

DISCOVERY II to investigate commencing 10/6 (V.A.N.P. 1032/8, 1152/8, 1420/8 SALOPIAN in Iceland waters (SALOPIAN 1300/8) Leave to arrive Clyde 12/6 (F.O.C.N.P. 2217/8).

Your 2356/7. Original report lighthouse keeper at Eorhofdi with telescope. Ships were sighted separately at 0800/7 and 1100/7. (S.O.(I) Iceland 1905/8)

CIRCASSIA to proceed to Reykjavik (F.O.C.N.P. 1402/8). Order one of A.M.C's on northern most patrol lines to proceed Reykjavik and get in touch with British Minister and Military authorities. She need only remain a few hours. (C. in C., H.F. 1219/8 to V.A.N.P.)
My position, course and speed at 1800, 060:44 N., 006:50 W., 137 degrees, 14 knots. Cancel expected time of arrival in my 0315. (F.O.C.B.C.S. 2112/8).

War Diary

8.6.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

AIR

British Air Activity

Patrols 3A 2 and 3A 3 will be flown at dawn as well as dusk till further orders. (C. in C. Rosyth 0002/8)

Dock Marks

To enable R.A.F. to pick out friendly ships in event of invasion, when there are likely to be a large number of Allied and German warships at sea (C. in C., Nore 1930/8)

Enemy Air Activity

Narvik Troop Convoy Attacked

Convoy has been attacked by one enemy aircraft 1705 63°N
Incendiary bombs, no hits. (VALIANT 1055/8)

Allied Markings

To be expected that enemy will exploit capture of Allied aircraft to the full and may also use Allied markings on his own aircraft. (D.N.I., 1554/8)

BEN ROSAL
STRATHDERRY
NEWHAVEN

Patrol trawlers, were bombed and machine gunned by enemy seaplane 1030/8 155 miles NNE Faroes. The vessels were slightly damaged and there were 2 casualties.

War Diary

8.6.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Temporary anchorage — prepared for ships waiting to enter ports on S.E. coast which have been temporarily closed owing to constant enemy mining (C. in C., W.A. 1934/8 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

French Mining — Area about to be mined by French (A.C.N.S. (H) 1700/8)

Clyde Minesweeping — Situation reported by C. in C. Rosyth 1741/7 is most dangerous and in view of use of Clyde by important units of Fleet in addition to important shipping to which C. in C., Rosyth refers, I consider it essential that minesweeping services should be reinstituted in this area without delay. (C. in C., H.F. 1000/8 to Admty.)

Reply. A M/S Trawler group is being sent leaving Plymouth 10/6. More M/S Trawlers will go to west coast as they are completed. Owing to recent casualties cannot keep a fast M/S F on W Coast until moored mines are found there. A.C.N.S. (H) 1848/8)

Cherbourg — Mine exploded (Cherbourg S.A. 1110/8)

Moray Firth — My 1347/7. 2 further mines detonated 136° 3.6 miles and 145° 3.5 miles from Tarbatness Lt. Ho. (S.O. 1st M/S F 1339/8)

Portland — Magnetic mine exploded 057° Breakwater Fort 6 cables. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1735/8

Mine cut in approx 54.0 'N 0.14'5'E (C. in C., Nore 2336/8, 2338/8)

Defence Against Minelaying — Admty. 2128/7 re defence against all minelaying. Request you take action at your discretion. (Air Min. (OA) to Fighter Command, 1215/8)

AXO reports heavy explosions heard to S.E. ship blowing siren (N.O.I.C. Newhaven to C. in C., Portsmouth 1915/8)

War Diary

8.6.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

HADEN
4 Warships

Which has been at Oslo in a damaged state since 10/4 left in tow a.m. /7 for Germany. At 0040/8 aircraft reported 4 warships, presumably HADEN and escort in 54.50'N 10.53'E, at southern end of Great Belt steering south (I.C. 0475/40)

Enemy Unit Near Faroes

At 0921/3 an unidentified German naval unit was transmitting apparently near the Faroes (I.C. 0475/40)

Transports

Reported that large fleet of more than 20 German transports loaded with war material lying at Aalborg Harbour. Locally reported as being due to sail for west coast of Norway and rumour destined for east coast of Scotland. Consider report reliable. (Capt. Clover 1247/8)
Information received by Lloyds from Norway indicating that German armoured vehicles have been concentrated at Christiansand (Capt. Clover 1719/8)
Norwegian Legation Stockholm reports considerable increase of transports arriving Oslo during week ending 7/6 Now 20 to 30 in Oslo. Also reported 20,000 to 40,000 troops including parachutists concentrated in Stavanger area. From another source, all power driven small craft and fishing boats in Norwegian coast are being requisitioned and armed with depth charges. American M.A. confirms (Stockholm 1731/8)

Sabotage Charges

Description. 15 have been found in one merchant ship. Masters of all British and Allied merchant ships should be informed (D.N.I. 1934/8 to B.C's at Spanish, Portugese, Iceland, French ports)

Torpedoes

V.A.Dover 0452/7 4 torpedoes found. They appear normal (VERNON 1455/8)

War Diary

8.6. 1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Ocean Convoys — Positions (D.C., 1902, C. in C., V.A. 1401/8)

O A Convoys — Your 1026/8 R.V. for OA Convoys should be in accordance with C. in C., Portsmouth 1243/7 until further instructions (D.T.D.1600/8, to N.C.S.O. Thames)

Rouen — Re. A.C.N.S. 2008/7, 0131/8. No more ships are to be allowed up to Rouen at present. Ships already at Rouen are to unload and leave with all despatch. (1st S.L. 1026/8 to N.C.S.O. Le Havre)

Le Havre — No more ships are to be sailed to Le Havre or Rouen at present. (D.T.D. 1027/8)

Downs — Anchorage in Downs only being used in emergency and by vessels which arrive too late to complete passage through Thames Estuary in daylight. (V.A.Dover 0943/8)

Downs Traffic — In view of recent developements intend sailing all East Kent traffic to Southend without anchoring in the Downs for convoy instructions. (N.C.S.O. Ramsgate, 1348/8)

Miscellaneous

Gas Attack — Understood HMBs experience a gas attack off La Panne 31/5. Request report (V.C.N.S. 1320/8 to V.A.Dover)

Dutch Troops — Dutch PRINCESS BEATRIX to be sailed p.m. today for Brest to embark 1500 Dutch troops and convoy them to Plymouth. (D.C.D. (H) 1302/8)

Coal, Russia — Russian Fleet, no change. Pre-war northern fort being made good. Two ships arrived with coal from Germany for State Dept. (Vice Consul, Liepaja, 1315/8)

War Diary.

8.6.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

WEATHER

	Wind	Weather	Visibility
North Sea (a) Western half.	Light, variable, mainly from South.	Extensive Fog	Generally poor or very poor.
(b) Eastern half	N. Moderate	Fine	Mainly Good
Horn's Reef	N. Moderate	Fine with slight haze	Mainly Good
Channel	Light & Variable	Local fog or haze	Moderate generally poor in fog.
W.Approaches	Light & Variable	Local fog or haze	Moderate generally poor in fog.
Norway	W. or N.W., moderate, poor locally.	Fine with occasional showers in North.	Generally Good.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

ST. ABBS — Tug, left Portland 29/5 to take part in evacuation of B.E.F. is missing. (D.O.D.) (H) 1258/8)

CALAIS(EN) — French tug, was sunk by aircraft 10/5 in Calais harbour.

War Diary

8.6.1940.
Saturday.

GENERAL.

Ships in Bristol Channel

Italian Shipping

Reported B 2 that Italian Govt. has ordered Italian ships in Bristol Channel ports to sail forthwith whether in ballast or loaded. Source in close touch with Italian shipping considers it likely they will make for Vigo. (S.O.I., London, 1115/8, A.C.N.S. (F) 1307/8 to C. in C. H.A., B.N.L.O. Marseau)

Noon Positions to be reported

At 1045/8 Coltano Radio told a number of Italian merchant ships to report their position at noon. (I.C. 0475/40)

In view of increasingly clear indications that Italian ships are receiving instructions to proceed to neutral ports, suggest French to warn patrol vessels off Spanish and Portugese ports. Particular importance is attached to FORTUNATA due Gib. 10/6 with cargo of toluol (D.C.D. (F) 0020/8 to B.N.L.O. Marseau)

War Diary

8.6.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French Positions

Italian Ships

8 Italian ships including VULCANIA and 3 tankers are detained here. Consider it most important decision regarding them should be communicated to me within the next few hours. (F.O.C.N.A., 1812/8). Matter is under consideration by H.M. Govt and decision will be sent as soon as possible. (Hd. of M., 0058/9)

South Atlantic

AUSTRALIA

To escort STRATHEDEN to U.K. and join C.S. Both to join Indian convoy escorted by CORNWALL to U.K. if delay not excessive. Endeavour to degauss AUSTRALIA temporarily before she leaves Simonstown. (D.O.D. (F) 1815/8 to C. in C., S.A.)

U.S. 3

Movements Escort (S.O. (1) Freetown 1814/8, 1810/8)

U.S.S. QUINCEY

U.S. cruiser QUINCEY expected Rio de Janeiro 12/6. (N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 1849/8)

Fast Convoys
A.M.C's

As the number of ships between 11 and 15 knots in S.L. Convoys has increased due to the diversion of shipping via the Cape it has been decided to re-commence fast convoys.
You are requested to sail S.L.F 37 so as to rendezvous with S.L. 37 in Western Approaches on 8th July.
My 2017/21. The first of the additional A.M.C's will arrive at Freetown 24th June, the other 3 following at 8 day intervals. (D.T.D. 1842/8 to C.in C S.A.)

A convoy of British Troops from India for U.K. escorted by CORNWALL expected at Capetown about 26 June. If delay not excessive AUSTRALIA and STRATHEDEN should join this convoy at Capetown.
(D.

War Diary

8.6.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean Contd

Summary of Italian Preparations

Volume of cypher traffic continues to increase. P/L by ships at sea apparently ceased, routine reports being made in cypher. Indications from P/L that Aliminia may be in preparation as submarine base. D.F. bearing places battleship VITTORIO VENETO at Taranto, nothing heard of LITTORIO. Submarine chaser ALBATROS exercising off Port Augusta yesterday (Friday) A number of oilers have received orders to expedite their voyage. No private telegrams will be permitted henceforth to or from Italian ships except between owners and masters and navigational messages. 9 ships, all last reported in British ports, were ordered to report their position at 1200/8. (C.O.S. St. ANGELO, 1659/8)

CALITEA

CALITEA, 4013 tons, from Alexandria to Naples with 116 passengers and mail bags, sent to Malta under armed guard. Master protested. (CAPETOWN, 1611/8) Gist of protest (F.O.C. 3. C's 1644/8)

Oil Reserve

Admty. 1627/6 Stock position somewhat relieved. Consider sufficient oilers should be in sight to keep Fleet supplied and make good possible loss of tanker tonnage. (C. in C. Med. 2213/8)

Italian Ships

Istanbul reports FENICIA and CAPOFARO due a.m. 7/6, have not arrived. SANTA MARIA on voyage to Constanza ordered on June 7 to proceed to Rhodes with all despatch. (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1901/8)

War Diary

8.6.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Italian Preparations

British SS SAN GORG reports sighting 7/6 5 Italian destroyers and 3 small ships sweeping 090° 1 mile Syracuse harbour. Italian Consul's private effects and car left Malta in ROSSINI 7/6 also 39 adults and some children (S.O. (1) Malta 1417/8)

Following received from Naples of which there is no confirmation in Admiralty. Impending Italian attack Gibraltar by air, land & sea. (Corrupt group -? Spain) to be overwhelmed instead of taking part. German ships DUISBURG, GEISENFELS and LEVKEN KUSEN have steam up preparatory to leaving Naples. Italian CONTE DI SAVOIA left Naples p.m. 5/6 with 6,000 troops and war material destination unknown, possibly Libya. (D.N.I., 2213/8)

Italians in Italian ship HELEN arrived Suez today state all Italian ships ordered to proceed to Italian ports within 48 hours (S. 3.) (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal area, 1658/8)

Istanboul report 7/6, Adriatica agent received telephone call from Italy. Italian ships to complete promptly loading cargo for Brindisi, cancel calling elsewhere (A.2)

Small Italian craft ordered to R.V. off Mytilene (A.4) (S.O.I., Alexandria 2145/8)

Destroyer Escort

Imperial Airways report sighting 0900 G.M.T. 8/6 one large Italian transport escorted by 2 destroyers proceeding towards Tobruk, and observed 5 vessels in Tobruk Harbour, unable to identify. One transport unescorted approaching Derna. (S.O.I., Malta, 2100/8)

Battle Fleet

Reported one VITTORIO class has joined up with Fleet. Greek steamers have repeatedly seen Italian troops being transported to Libya. Appears to be unusual traffic between Naples and Brindisi probably carrying troops to Brindisi. (M.A., Athens 1435/8)

War Diary

8.6.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

UMBRIA

East Indies

Your 2015/7. Re "persuasion". If necessary UMBRA could be delayed until arrival of person to do the persuading. (C. in C., E.I. 12252/8)

Final destination declared as Calcutta Ship therefore appears to be subject to export control under Adty 1739/6 (S.B.N.O. Suez. 1216/8)

STRATHEDEN

Movements (C. in C., E.I. 11192/8)

German Activities

In Addis Ababa My 0856/6 N.O.I.C. Kilindine states information received from most reliable source. (S.O.(1) Colombo 05272/8)

Banda Shapur

My 1714/7, Para 1. Minister Teheran in his No 160 referred to measures of control taken by Iranian authorities. Two Iranian gunboats are permanently on guard at Banda Shapur anchored to seaward of German ship. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 09102/8)

ANFORA

Requesting instructions re application of this Italian ship for 700 tons bunker coal from Bombay. (Customs, Bombay 1505/8) Ship has arrived Marmagoa.
From UNST message appears to be taking refugees. Ship is neither loading nor unloading cargo. (S.O.I., Colombo, 17052/8)

Italian Movements

Following is gist of C. in C. East Indies Tel. No 1217/8 addressed Middle East Intelligence Centre: Reliably reported Italian Destroyer three funnels probably VINCENZO ORSINI anchored between centre peak and Jabal Zubair East Helena on 2nd June landed party at lighthouse. H.M.S. HOBART reported sighting Italian Destroyer VINCENZO ORSINI in same vicinity 3rd June. Senior Officer Red Sea Force reported centre peak light not burning 3rd June.(M.I.C.E., Cairo, 1930/8)

War Diary

8.6.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Ichang

FALCON to remain at Ichang until Japanese Force threatens the town, when she is to withdraw to Chungking. Danger of being mined in should not be overlooked. N.L.O. inform Butterfield and Swire's and Jardines accordingly and that this is necessaru because she is only gunboat in Chinese controlled waters. (C. in C., China. 0411Z/8)

Raid on Ichang today by 3 light bombers at 0810/8. Damage to shore property. S.N.O., Upper River, 11570/8)

Situation Ichang critical. Japanese have broken through between Tangyang and Udgshik. Garrison Commander advised evacuation of British subjects p.m. Sunday to steamships SHASI, SIANGTAN and KIANGWO. If Chinese decide to destroy city, Garrison Commander will endeavour to protect British property. River reported to be boomed above Shasi. (S.N.O., Upper River. 2317G/8)

Italian Shipping

Disposition of Italian shipping (C.O.I.S Far East., 0511Z/8)

Australia

Italian Ships

List and destinations (D.N.I., Melbourne, 1048Z8)

War Diary

8.6.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

U.S.S.

Asking whether it will come to Trinidad If not he wishes to change His dispositions slightly (C. in C., A.E.I. 1001/8)

Dispositions to Intercept Shipping

Until 13/6 in event of Italy entering war. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1151/8)

Italian Ship

VELLA has been detained in Punta Areros, Costa Rica under orders of Italian Govt. (Port Limon, C.R., 1106/8)

Suspicious Vessels

At 1800/8, passenger ship about 7000 tons came into George Town Harbour from south side Island. nationality unknown, no flag, no markings, 2 funnels, (markings no gun visible. Ship did not stop but proceeded in westerly direction. (Grand Cayman, 1930/8)

War Diary

8.6.1940.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

HARDINGHAM
SUNK

Mined 1130/8 141° 1½ miles South Knock Buoy. Had become separated from F.S.189 Convoy. Ship degaussed. Mine probably magnetic. Survivors taken off by Harwich trawlers. Ship sank in approx. 51.39'30"N 1.40'30"E (N. Foreland Radio, 1135/8 C. in C., Nore, 2141/8, 2358/3, F.O.I.C. Harwich 1307/8)

EMPIRE COMMERCE

British, 3857 tons, mined while out of the swept channel near N.E. Spit Buoy, Thames Approaches, at 2235/8. 2 of her crew missing, 3 others injured. Vessel beached. (N. Foreland 1205/9, C. in C., Nore, 2333/9) Was not degaussed or wiped, and not in convoy.

Submarines Reported

0840 — 55.52'N 2.40'E off Flamboro Head, by aircraft, course 040° A.l. (I.C. 0475/40 Donibristle 1315/8)

0230/2 — Submarine nationality unknown stopped CITY OF WATERFORD 60 miles N.W. of C. Finisterre and allowed her to proceed after questioning. (F.O.C.N.A. 1231/8)

0300 — 54.8'N 4.48'W (off Isle of Man) by drifter OCEAN BRIDE C.5. (I.C. 0475/40) BERKELEY ordered to attack (C. in C. W.A. 0814/8)

1408 — D.F. Unreliable fix, unknown enemy unit, probably U/B 48.N., 10.20'W (D.D.I.C. 1527/8)

Estimated U/B dispositions. Situation obscure. Possibilities are:
1 in Bay of Biscay.
1 off N.W. Ireland homewards.
1 off Ireland 0543/7 possibly patrolling in that area.
1 North of Shetlands homewards.
1 off Norwegian Coast N. of 61° N.
Possibly 1 in English Channel.
(D.D.I.C. 1230/8)

Submarines Attacked

1408 — Contact attacked by A/S yacht EVADNE at 53.45'N 4.40'W. (352° Skerries 19')
(I.C. 0476) (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1603/8)

War Diary

9.6.40.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT

Sinking of GLORIOUS, ACASTA, ARDENT, ORAMA, OIL PIONEER.

At 0900/9 the hospital ship ATLANTIS, returning from Narvik, reported by V.S. to VALIANT, proceeding North about 80 miles N.E. of Faroes, that she had seen an enemy battleship, with 2 destroyers and seaplanes, attack a 2 funnelled transport at 0900/8. The transport, believed to be the ORAMA, returning independently from Narvik without troops or cargo was still afloat when last seen by ATLANTIS.

At 1715/8 DEVONSHIRE picked up a report from GLORIOUS of 2 pocket battleships at 1615 and 1640. Owing to various circumstances C.S.1 believed the report to have been an error. DEVONSHIRE estimates that she was about 130 miles from the GLORIOUS at the time.

A German broadcast at 1500/9 claimed that the battleships SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU sank GLORIOUS, OIL PIONEER, ORAMA, one destroyer and one submarine chaser on 8/6. No W/T communication has been possible with GLORIOUS, ARDENT, ACASTA or ORAMA.

VALIANT was ordered to proceed to the westward with a large convoy of troops transports and destroyers returning from Narvik. VALIANT was bombed during the afternoon and evening. REPULSE, NEWCASTLE and SUSSEX are to join this group, also ARK ROYAL and her screen of destroyers, which have been operating off Narvik. RODNEY, RENOWN and destroyers left Scapa pm/9 northwards to cover all the Narvik convoys. Two submarines are disposed to intercept the German battleships, should they make for Heligoland.

D/F fixes showed enemy units to the north of the German Declared Area during the afternoon, and W/T traffic indicated some connection between these ships and the forces to the northward.

Extensive air reconnaissance over the entire North Sea at dusk 9/6 did not reveal any sign of the enemy. As a precautionary measure, all ships on the East coast were ordered to keep steam for full speed at 2200/9.

Iceland

NEWCASTLE and SUSSEX were ordered at 0055/9 to establish a patrol to the west of Ireland in case the two ships sighted off Iceland am/7 by the lighthouse keeper at Vestmannaryjar - an island off the southernmost point of Iceland - passing westward, may be conveying troops to Iceland. At 1042, however, on receipt of the news that 2 German battleships were out, they were ordered with REPULSE and ARK ROYAL to join VALIANT in escorting the Narvik convoy.

War Diary

9.6.40.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT

French Coast Rouen was evacuated today by shipping and the petrol tanks were fired. Operation Cycle is in abeyance for the time being (see Operations volume)

Troop Convoys There are the following troop convoys en route (0715/9).

3rd Australian T.C. is between Freetown and Dakar, escorted by CUMBERLAND and SHROPSHIRE.

Convoy with troops from Bombay is between Bombay and Seychelles, escorted by KENT. Convoy with troops from Colombo is off Mombasa, escorted by COLOMBO.

Convoy of native troops from West Africa is proceeding towards the Cape, enroute for Mombasa, escorted by CORNWALL. Narvik Convoy group 1 escorted by VINDICTIVE and 5 destroyers is west of Hebrides en route for Clyde.

Narvik Convoy Group 2 escorted by COVENTRY and 6 destroyers is 600 miles E.N.E. of Scapa, en route for Scapa.

Narvik Store Convoy escorted by 3 destroyers is 700 miles N.N.E. of Scapa.

DORSETSHIRE Sailed pm. from Plymouth to Grand Canary.

Air. During the night 8/9 there was some evidence of Norwegian transport activity and of some offensive activity against an unknown objective off the Norwegian coast. This latter activity was controlled by Trondheim. Mine-laying is believed to have taken place off the North Foreland, in the Downs off Dungeness, off Beachy Head and possibly west of the Isle of Wight. Dieppe, Le Havre, and Cherbourg are believed to have been bombed. Naval aircraft were active in the Northern North Sea from an early hour this morning until shortly before noon, a number of urgent message being passed. (H.Q.C.C. 1730/9).

Italian Situation Count Ciano has informed N.A. Rome that "the die is cast", and the French are believed to be leaving Rome on Tuesday or Wednesday next.

It is reported that German Admiral Marshall has been appointed to Mediterranean and S. Atlantic sectors and is trying to force an offensive policy on Italian Navy, especially on their submarines. (S.O.I. Alexandria 1251/9 to Adty.)

War Diary

9.6.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Bridlington.

Request you views as regards effect on trade if Bridlington Harbour is blocked by a suitable ship. (D. of L.D. to F.O.I.C. Hull, 1348/9)

Effect will be small. 12 fishing vessels work from the port. 1 or 2 coasting vessels call weekly.(F.O. Humber 1740/10)

Liverpool Area

Report re Holyhead, Preston, Fleetwood and Whitehaven. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1436/9)

Ref F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1436/8 proposals are concurred in. Request notices to marines may be issued. (C. in C., W.A. 1048/9)

Immobilisation of Forts

Your 0031/7 confirmed (C. in C., Home Forces, London, no T.O.O. Recd. 1220/9)

Shoreham

Port scheme ready (C. in C., Portsmouth 0013/9)

Movements

18 C.S.

Your 1358/9 approved for 18 C.S. to proceed Rosyth for a few days as proposed. (D.C., 1625/9 to C. in C., Nore) Admty. 1625. Intend proceeding with MANCHESTER SHEFFIELD and BIRMINGHAm at 0430/10, expected arrival Rosyth 1530/10 (F.O. 18C.S., 1941/9)

Submarines

Positions at 0600/10 (V.A.S., 1926/9, D.C. 2156/9, 0122/10)

EMERALD

Route ~~for~~ from Iceland to Clyde (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1719/9)

Scapa

F.O.C.B.C.S., in RENOWN with ZULU and KELVIN arrived Scapa (F.O.C.O.S. 0515/1

GLORIOUS
VALIANT

VALIANT's 0901/9. If you have enough fuel, join VALIANT, otherwise proceed to Scapa. VALIANT estimated to be steering 028o from position 63. 18'N., 3.49'W. at 0900/9 speed 21 knots. (C. in C., H.F. to GLORIOUS, 1033/9)

EMERALD WINGS

Has been allocated to Scapa as Blockship. She should be routed west about and escorted if possible. (D. of L.D. 1551/9 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

War Diary

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Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-North Sea

NEWCASTLE take SUSSEX under orders and proceed with moderate despatch to 58.00'N., 13.00'W., 13.00'W. Ships then to patrol 30 miles either side of that position on a line 70o 250o. If r not in company now ships to R.V. as ordered by NEWCASTLE. Object of patrol interception of 2 merchant ships sigated off iceland which may be conveying enemy troops to Eire. You will also be in a position to proceed to any position on West Coast of Eire if news of a landing is received. (C. in C., H.F., 0055/9)

My position, course and speed are 63.47'N., 11.33'W. 183° 15 knots at 0400. Orders to SUSSEX (NEWCASTLE, 0412/9)

NEWCASTLE and SUSSEX to proceed towards 66.N., 1.W., then steer 034o. (C. in C., 1042/9)

Enemy battle cruisers may be passing your vicinity proceeding S.E. at any time now. (V.A.(S) to TETRARCH, 1512/9)

VALIANT
R.A. (A)

VALIANT's 0901/9. Join Group 2 (Narvik Convoys) Maintain wide reconnaissance to give warning of approach of enemy force. If located attack with torpedo aircraft. (C. in C., H.F. 1054/9, to R.A. (A))

SOUTHAMPTON

VALIANT's 0901/9. Presume you are putting up all round air reconnaissance. SOUTHAMPTON will then obtain touch, SOUTHAMPTON meanwhile remaining with convoy. Position, course and speed, 69.04'N., 04.27'E., 210° 15 knots (P.O., Narvik to R.A. (A) 1102/9)

CLYDE

C. in C. H.F's 1031/9. Proceed with despatch to patrol off northern end of Fro Havet. (R.A. (S) to CLYDE, 1126/9.

REPULSE

Position, course and speed at 1130 (REPULSE 1155/9)

War Diary

9.6.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operation C.P.

My 1152/8. Operation C.P. Dieppe is to be blocked 10/6. Sail forces accordingly. Latest information available will be signalled by 2400/9 (V.C.N.S. /9) Situation obscure Expect further signal (D.D.O.D. (H) 2210/9) As Germans may be in Dieppe by time you arrive you must expect some light opposition. (Adty. 2355/9 to VEGA) My M.T.B's have not made contact and may be at Dieppe. Hope make Dieppe at earliest daylight. Request fighter escort visibility poor position doubtful. (VEGA 0045/10)

Operations-French Coast

Le Havre

Commercial Cable Company's Office at Le Havre closed. All communications with Paris cut. (Press report 1655/9)

Please keep me fully informed direct of the situation at Havre. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1943/9 to War Office)
Ref. your 2/A 1326/1 of today. Naval Liaison party not arrived at Cherbourg by 1500 today. Cannot communicate Havre and suggest you cable direct. Transport above party standing by at Cherbourg as ordered. (L. of C., to Broadness 6, 1850/9)

Cherbourg

Bombing raids at intervals between 1040/8 and 0230/9 also probable mine dropping. Believed no serious damage. Wharves, quays, and rail intact. Port open to treated ships. (B.N.L.O. Marceau 1557/9)

Rouen Evacuated

Rouen evacuated and petrol tanks fired. Sea Transport Officer left 1800/8 on Military order, having arranged sailing of merchant shipping 23 ships. Proceeding Cherbourg to await orders. (N.C.S.O. Rouen, 1615/9, 1655/9)

War Diary

9.6.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operation-Cycle

Put into operation forthwith. Ships in first instance to Havre. Embarkation will start tonight. Troops evacuated will probably proceed to another French Port instead of England. Important to embark as much material as possible (A.C.N.S. (H) 1320/9 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

RESTIGDUCKE
BROKE
ST. LAURENT
WELLINGTON
CODRINGTON

Proceed with despatch to R/V with SALADIN at 2700 Cape De La Heve 7' (C. in C., Portsmouth 1505/9)

CODRINGTON to embarke Beach Parties and French Officers at Spithead before proceeding R/V (C. in C. Portsmouth 1556/9. Sailed 1328/ (C. in C. W.A. 1617/9)

BULLDOG
BOADICEA
CALCUTTA

R/V with SALADIN 7' W of Cape De La Heve (C. in C. Portsmouth 1533/9)

Calcutta delayed by Minefield off Harwich C. in C. Nore 1737/9 to C. in C Portsmouth) To be sailed for Havre at Daylight 10th (C. in C. Nore 1855/9)

Owing to French evacuation tonight no British ships to enter Havre. Troop carriers to return to Spithead, other ships to Newhaven and Poole. Destroyers remain with you. All ships keep steam at immediate notice. (C. in C., Portsmouth to SALADIN 2154/9)

Small craft flotilla to remain near or inside Havre (C. in C., Portsmouth 2204/9 to tug RESOLVE)

LAIRDS ISLE carrying Beach Parties to enter Havre as soon as possible. (C. in C., Portsmouth to SALADIN 2210/9)

Seven Dutch Coasters now at Surrey Commercial Docks, London to be commissioned and sailed for Newhaven forthwith (D.O.D. (H) 2238/8)

War Diary

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Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operation Cycle- Contd.

Twelve Dutch Coasters now at Poole to be commisioned forthwith. (D.O.D. (H) 2239/8)

Do not arrive at Havre before 0400/10 (D.O.D.H. 2250/9 to SALADIN and ships)

Situation 1030/9 apparently as follows. 51st Divn. holding line Dieppe/Neufchatel, thence S.W. to westward of Rouen Docks. Local French garrison on line Fecamp/Lillebonne. German advanced armoured forces near Rouen. French Admiral commanding ashore has ordered 51st Division to fall back to Havre for evacuation. Estimated total numbers for evacuation at Havre are:-

British 51st Division	23,000
British Local Garrison	5,000
French Troops	5,000
Military Labour Camps	20,000

Plus unknown number from French Army. Naval Liaison Party on their way North.

Their W/T, like mine can receive but cannot transmit. (Telephone from S.N.O. Havre 9/6)

War Diary

9.6.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operation Cycle

Intend to use HAMPTON for operation Cycle (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1203/9)

CALCUTTA, BULLDOG, BOADICEA from Nore, CODRINGTON and BROKE from W.A., and AMBUSCADE, HARVESTER, FERNIE and GARDENIA from Portland as well as Destroyers and Sloops at Portsmouth to be placed at disposal of C. in C., Portsmouth for this operation. (D.D.D. (K) to C. in C. Portsmouth 9/6)

Dieppe
Havre
Cherbourg

Dieppe is clear. Barge sunk near entrance and possible magnetic mines outside, but ammunition ~~all~~ supplies can be landed at Dieppe though Havre better for heavy supplies. Germans in Treport. Left flank British Division at Criel retreating slowly to Dieppe. Havre and Cherbourg quite free for traffic (B.N.L.O. Paris to Admty. 1320/9)

The following signals re operation Cycle will be found in Operation Volume:-

A.C.N.S. (H) 1320/9

C. in C. Portsmouth 2204/9, 2154/9, etc

D.O.D. (H) 2238/9, 2239/9.

Telephone from S.N.O., Havre, 9/6.

Operations- Narvik Area

Convoys

Admty. 1834/7 and F.O.C.S. 1802/9. French ships PREHAC and ST CLAIR are to join Hebrew convoy to Clyde if they arrive at Scapa in time. Trawlers and British ships other then troopships on passage from Narvik are to proceed to Scapa to await orders. Norwegian ships on passage from Tromso are to proceed to Kirkwall for orders. ATLANTIS to proceed Liverpool. (D.O.D. (H) 2212/9)

War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Narvik

Convoys, Contd.

Position course and spped of Group 2 at 1800 67.40'N., 0140'E., 270° 13 knots. ARROW, escorting store convoy to take command 65. N 10.W., thence to destimation, passing W. of Faroes. (F.O., Narvik, 1805/9)

DEVONSHIRE

My 0623/9 (Destroyer to act as screen to DEVONSHIRE) Destroyer escort will not be available. (C. in C., H.F., 1117/9)

AIR

British Air Activity

Reconnaissance

Interpretation of photographs obtained 8/6 Den Helder naval base, no change, no German naval units. Demok seaplane base no change, same seaplane at same moorings. Harrlingen no activity. (D.D.I.C., 0032/9)

1 aircraft 206 Sqdn. to reconnoitre Horns Reef and Borkum. (A.C.H.Q., Chatham 1220/9)

Enemy Air Activity

VETERAN

Bombed 66.20'N 2.40'E (VETERAN 0735/9)

BEN ROSAL
STRATHDERRY
NEWHAVEN

Bombed and machine gunned by large seaplane 1030/8 at 64.30'N 2.45'W. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 2045/9 to F.O.C.O.S.)

Fair Isle Raid

Failure of ground defences to come into operation in time against enemy aircraft on 7/6 may be partly due to fact that lately friendly aircraft observed flying low over the island. Sggested regulations in regard to approaching merchant ships should apply to Fair Isle. (A.C.O.S. 1125/9)

Ref. A.C.O.S. 1125/9, consider association of rules for avoiding merchant ships with rules for avoiding prohibited areas would cause confusion. Fair Isle lies in a prohibited area, and 11 Command will be asked to remind pilots they must avoid it. (Air Ministry 0800/10)

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Ouistreham — Magnetic mines reported found this morning in approaches to Ouistreham (Caen, 1120/9, to Transports, London).

Eire — H.Q. Ulster Constabulary received information (B.O.) that after departure of U.S. relief ship 11/6 or 12/6 enemy will attempt minelaying round Irish Coast. (N.O.I.C. Belfast, 1110/9).

Shipping

T.C.5. — Instructions for (DUCHESS OF ATHOLL, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, SAMARIA, REVENGE) (D.O.D.(F) 0031/9).

E. Boat Threat — Threat from E-boat attack on shipping off southern part of East coast and in Eastern English Channel considered to outweigh that from air and to necessitate alteration to existing convoy time tables on the basis that shipping should sail from the Thames as early as possible and arrive in the Thames as late as possible each day, thus permitting daylight passage of those portions of the coast nearest enemy bases. Arrangements for this. (D.T.D. 1626/9).

Enemy Intelligence

German Force reported to be at sea off Norwegian Coast. Our Main Fleet endeavouring to intercept. (D.C. 2025/9 to B.N.L.O. Marceau).

Unknown enemy unit, D.F., at 1616/9, bearing Scarborough 018/1 (D.D.I.C. 1656/9).

Unknown enemy unit, D.F., at 1711/9, position 52:20 N., 04:00 E., unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 1744/9).

Unknown enemy unit, D.F., at 2040/9, position 57:55N. 7:20 E., reliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2116/9)

Unknown enemy unit, D.F., at 1534/9, position 56:40 N., 5:30 E., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1632/9).

Unknown enemy unit, D.F. at 1825/9, bearings Cupar 040/2, Scarborough 021/1. (D.D.I.C., 1941/9).

Unknown.....

War Diary

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Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

Unknown enemy unit, D.F., at 1904/9, bearings from Scarborough, Cooling Marches, Flowerdown and Land's End. (D.D.I.C. 1951/9).

Unknown enemy unit, D.F., at 2245/9, bearings Scarborough 054/1, Cupar 085/3. (D.D.I.C. 2350/9).

D/F fixes showed enemy units to the north of the German Declared Area afternoon 9/6 and W/T traffic indicated some connection between these ships and the forces to the northward (I.C.0477/40)

Miscellaneous

N.A. Paris — Naval Attache's Office in Paris being closed p.m. today, Sunday. (B.N.L.O. Marceau, 1319/9).

WASHINGTON — My 1402/4. S.S. WASHINGTON will probably leave Lisbon 10/6 arriving Galway 12/6 (Hd. of M., 1624/9) to C. in C., W.A.).

WEATHER

0500 B.S.T.	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	Variable, light.	Moderate with fog patches in N. and W., good in E.	Visibility deteriorating in E.
Channel	Variable, light.	Good, local coastal mist.	Wind becoming southerly in W.
W. Approaches	South, light or moderate.	Good.	Wind freshening slowly. Visibility deteriorating.
Horns Reef	Northerly, light.	Good, coastal haze.	Wind becoming variable.
Dutch Coast	Variable, light.	Moderate, coastal haze.	Similar.
Norwegian Coast: South West	Variable, light.	Mainly good, coastal haze.	Visibility, deteriorating.

(no information for North)

War Diary

9.6.40.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Home Commands

MARGARET (Patrol Trawler)	Scuttled after leaving Harstad for Scapa in row of STRATHDERRY owing to bad weather. Crew transferred to STRATHDERRY. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 2045/9 to F.O.C.O.S.)

America & West Indies

LACONIA	Aground in Halifax Harbour. H.M.S. AUSONIA sailing about 1900 today to escort HX 49 (F.O.C. 3 B.S., 1403/9).

OREGON, CLAN SKENE, CITY OF ATHENS — See South Atlantic.

War Diary

9.6.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French Positions — Convoys & Patrols 1200/10 (D.C. 2351/9).

North Atlantic

Durban D.F. Station — Concur in D.N.I. 1238/1 (C. in C., S.A., 1220/9).

OREGON — Danish ship due Cape Town 4/6 not arrived. (S.O.I., Cape Town, 1118/9).

CLAN SKENE — Due Durban 7/6 not arrived
CITY OF ATHENS — Due Cape Town approx 6/6 not arrived
(S.O.I. Cape Town, 1108/9)

Mediterranean

Positions — British Warships at sea (D.C. 0745/9 to B.N.L.O. Marceau).

UMBRIA — Italian. Your 1725/9. Action has been taken as suggested. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., Med.)

Italian Radio — Italian administration notify following. Radio telegram service with Italian ships suspended. Radio telegrams exchanged between commanders of said ships and Italian authorities and owners or their agencies only admitted. (Berne Communication Centre, 1200/9).

VERBANIA — Italian, being held at Port Said with 2500 tons of cement on board and some munitions. Consider she should not transit the Canal unless cement unloaded and reloaded at Suez. (C. in C., Med., 1735/9).

Possible Minelayers — Italian ships which may be used for minelaying. C.1 report from Genoa states REX loading for company June 8 and will proceed Trieste. (N.A., Rome, 1926/9).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

CONTE VERDE — Italian, due to leave Shanghai today for Europe, ordered to remain indefinitely (Reuter).

Motor Transport — Cairo report that for 2 months all Italian ships homeward through Suez Canal from Massawa have carried many motor lorries, originally shipped to East Africa for Abyssinia campaign. (Press).

PLEIADI — Italian minelaying destroyer, sighted by DAINTY 36:45 N., 12:43 E. at 1745 (X.1-2) 8/6. (S.O.I. Malta, 1031/9).

Italian Cruisers — Position of 8 in. cruisers June 7 believed (A.2) to be one at Spezzia, 3 at Messina, 3 at Taranto. (D.N.I. 1732/9).

German Aircraft for Italy — Following received from French Ambassador at Berne:- Reported on June 7th that some 60 German bombers had been flown from Germany to Italy via Switzerland during the previous 48 hours and that the Swiss authorities gave strict instructions that they were not to be fired on. (D.N.I. 1731/9).

A/S Sweep — Adty. 1621/8. Am arranging an A/S sweep to westward of Alexandria by destroyers tomorrow 10/6 in case Italian submarines are on the move out of their declared area. Force will have orders to attack submarines located unless they are escorted by a surface vessel. (C. in C., Med., 1209/9).

Germans in Italy — Training of Italian submarines crews supervision of armaments of Italian Cruisers of Regolo Class and further repairs being carried out on Italian Battleship LITTORIO which failed to attain expected speed 30 knots, being carried out by German Officers. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 1251/9). Your 1250/9, 1251/9 request source (D.N.I. 1088/10).

Route Instructions — Asking if neutral vessels on charter to British Govt. should be routed by N.C.S.O.'s (C. in C., Med. 1917/9). Advice may be given in accordance with Adty. 1616/26/10/39 (D.T.D., 1708/10).

East Indies

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

W/T Communications Re daily wireless communication between Mauritius and Solomon Is. and Diego Garcia in Castille Archipelago. N.I.D. 01038/1940 dated 12/4/40 refers. (C. in C., E.I. 1427/9).

China

Japanese Incidents S.N.O. Upper River's 11570, 8/6. Letter to Japanese naval authorities drawing attention to bomb incident. Suggestions for avoiding future incidents, all British ships to have distinctly painted Union Jack on Upper deck, etc. (B.N.L.O., Shanghai, 03092/9).

Ichang. Situation (S.N.O., Upper River, 20020/9).

Australia

Italian Ships Names and destinations. (D.N.I., Melbourne, 06542/9).

America and West Indies.

Manning of German Ships My 1822/6 (Norwegian Officers and crews available for manning 6 captured German ships (C. in C., A.W.I. 1012/9).

Cancel my 1445/29/5. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1055/9).

Danish Ships Adty. 1924/8, (Valparaiso is in ignorance of Adty. message re seizure of Danish Ships in prize). Gist of message quoted was sent Panama, Colon, Curacao and naval authorities only. Message now being fully distributed. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1104/9).

K.L.M. Service Concur views of Governor, Trinidad, in his telegram 389 to Sec. of State. Consider K.L.M. Service is at present potential source of danger. (C. in C., A.W.I. 2151/9).

Movements My 0050/5. Report whether EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, and EMERALD have yet sailed. Despatch is necessary. (D.O.D.(F) to R.A. 3 B.S., 2057/9).

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies (Contd.)

SUMATRA — Adty. 1732/7. Request Dutch SUMATRA be sailed for Bermuda as early as possible. (C. in C., A.W.I., to Capt. H.M.D.Y., Halifax, 0912/9).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPPING

Four German ships which had taken refuge in Naples sailed during the night of June 8/9. Their destinations are unknown but Adriatic ports seem the most probable.

ITALIAN SHIPPING

POLINICE — 1373 tons, Varna to Venice with 1700 tons of maize, has been ordered to Malta under armed guard (FIONA 0130/9).

REX — Left Genoa 6/6 destination believed to be Venice. (D.N.I., 1732/9).

POSEIDONE — Intercepted and released 36:23 N., 22:42 E., in ballast from Bari to Burgas and Constanza to load crude oil. (CAPETOWN, 1451/9).

BRONTE — Intercepted messages to Basra Radio (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 0735/9).

ERMINIA)
KAZELLA)
SAVOIA) — Left Colombo 5/6 and 6/6 due Aden 17/6 and 15/6. If they appear off Marmagoa before you leave, similar action to be taken as for ANFORA. (C. in C., E.I. to CATHAY 0557/9).

CALITEA — CAPETOWN's 1611/8. Request approval for CALITEA to evacuate Italians who desire to leave Malta. (F.O.I.C., Malta 1405/9). Approved, but ship not to be released before approval from M.E.W. (C. in C., Med., 1733/9).

ITALIAN SHIPPING

VERBANIA	My 1202/7. VERBANIA arrived Port Said 1000/9, cement etc., for Massawa. Intended that she should transit Canal tomorrow during daylight hours with armed guard and escorted by tug. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area, 1116/9) (see also Mediterranean).
RODI	With 150 Italians, including some officers, and 157 Poles boarded and sent to Malta under armed guard in position 36:23 N., 22:45 E., from Alexandria to Brindisi. Being held. (CAPETOWN, 1404/9).
PENELOPE CARBONIA	Dubrovnik, ordered to sail nearest Italian port. (Belgrade report to News Chronicle).
CONTE GRANDI	Reported at Santos. (Press).
CONTE BIANCAMANO	" " Bilbao. "
VIGOR GENOANO	Refuging at Puerto Mexico "
FEDE	At Tampico "
FACIL ANTEO	Expected at Tampico "
STELVIO	" " " "
FELA	Due Acapulco 11/6 "
ALABAMA	In Mexican waters "
DORA	" " " "
ADIGE	Sent into Malta under armed guard 9/6 (FIONA 0412/9)
SAN MARIO IOASSO CAPACITAS	All in Medit. ordered by P/L, two at 2015/8 and one at 0950/9 from Italian Coal Monopoly; "Failing to reach your port of destination before afternoon 10/6 you will proceed to port nearest you and await our instructions". (D.N.I. 1830/9).
REMO	(Genoa to Brisbane) was instructed on 8/6 to discharge all passengers and cargo at Fremantle, W.A., and proceed to Batavia for full cargo of sugar. (I.C. 0477/40).
MONTE PIANA	Intercepted and brought into Aden by armed guard (C.C.S. Aden, 06352/9).
FORTUNATA	My 0020/8. Instructed by W/T to coal in a Spanish port (D.O.D.(F) 1227/9 to B.N.L.O. Marseau).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

EMPIRE COMMERCE sunk 8/6

My 1453. EMPIRE COMMERCE was mined four cables W. of N.E. Spit Buoy. Ship beached 19 cables 261 degrees from N.E. Spit Buoy. Sweepers exploded red mine 3 cables N.W. of N.E. Spit Buoy. N.E. Spit Buoy is reported to be 111 degrees 7.2 cables from its charted position. (C. in C., Nore, 2333/9, as amended by 1545/10).

Submarines Reported

1110 — D.F., unreliable fix, 59:00 N., 1:30 E. (H.Q., C.C., 1730/9).

1700 — By French aircraft 38:0 N., 3:35 E. (about 72 miles S. of Majorca) (F.O.C.N.A. 1722/10).

1711 — D.F. unknown enemy unit, 52:20 N., 04:00 E., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1744/9).

1749 — D.F., unknown enemy unit, probably U-boat, 57:40 N., 03:00 E., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1840/9).

2216 — D.F., unknown enemy unit, probably U-boat, bearing Scarborough 335/2, Land's End, 0005/3 Sumburgh 279/3. (D.D.I.C. 2253/9, 2350/9).

Estimated U-boat dispositions:-
Situation still obscure. Possibilities are:-
1 in about 48:00 N., 10:20 W. at 1408/8 homeward bound either northabout or through Channel.
Possibly 1 patrolling N. of Ireland.
1 W. Hebrides homeward bound.
1 in middle of North Sea homeward bound.
Possibly 1 homeward bound from Norwegian Coast.
(D.D.I.C. 1201/9).

Submarines Attacked

My 1915/8 FOXGLOVE reports dropped 5 depth charges on contact which later proved to be non-sub. (N.O.I.C., Newhaven, 0036/9)

War Diary

10.6.1940.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT

Italy Declares War

Italy informed the British and French Ambassadors that she was in a state of war with Great Britain and France from 11/6

Operation "Cycle" The situation is obscured See Operations Volume.

French Coast

French ships evacuated base personnel from Havre during the night 9/10. Havre was bombed during the evening 10/6. Granville and St. Malo are open Caen and Cherbourg open to treated ships.

Marceau was evacuated.

In the course of operations off the French coast to assist the Army by bombardment BULLDOG and BOADICEA were damaged by bombs and AMBUSCADE by fire from a shore battery off Fecamp.

Blocking and demolition operations were carried out at Dieppe 10/6, but the approach though difficult is not completely closed to ships. One of the 3 blockships was sunk by a mine in the approach.

Convoy Attacked by M.T.B's

VIVIEN, escorting a north bound convoy off orfordness was attacked by M.T.B's from 0030/10 to 0145/10, and at least 7 torpedoes were fired. As far as is known there were no hits. Our aircraft unsuccessfully attacked these M.T.B's when homeward bound. JACKAL and FORESIGHT, on patrol off Lowestoft, were despatched to remain near the convoy until daybreak, and 4 aircraft also proceeded in support.

The enemy M.T.B's were operating from Ymuiden and Hook of Holland. C. in C. Nore has ordered all available large M.T.B's to be off Ymuiden by 0300/11 and to carry out a sweep to intercept the enemy on their return.

Enemy Concentrations

Enemy battle cruisers and other large ships were reported at anchor at Trondheim on the morning 10/6. 30 merchant vessels of 4/5000 tons were observed at Bergen and another considerable concentration in the Statlandet area.

War Diary

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Monday

SITUATION REPORT CONTD.

At 1400/10 CLYDE reported 1 pocket battleship and one HIPPER class cruiser at sea off Trondheim. A Sunderland flying boat proceeded to locate and shadow these ships, but had not sighted them by the time she was relieved.
At 1800/C a Blenheim reconnaissance at Trondheim reported that the only ships in Harbour were 1 battle cruiser, 2 destroyers and 1 merchant ship.

At 1526 the Admiralty directed that the enemy ships reported by CLYDE should be the objective of C. in C., Home Fleet.

Mining

Mines were dropped by aircraft off Harwich during the night 9/10 and the port is closed.

A new field of contact mines has been found in the searched channel 12 miles S.E. of Flamborough; 18 mines have been swept to date. It is believed these are Dutch mines laid by the Germans.

ORZEL

is 2 days overdue in returning from the entrance to the Skagerrak and must be presumed lost.

Italian Shipping

The UMBRIA, loaded with cement and explosives scuttled herself at Port Said 1700/10. 13 Italian merchant ships were siezed shortly before midnight in ports in the U.K., and one, the MARZOCCO was intercepted by patrol trawlers in home waters. Others are held in British ports abroad.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Magnetic Mines — Hd. of M. 2246/10 to C. in C., Rosyth, Nore, Portsmouth, A.C.O.S., F.O.C. Dover.

Humber untrustworthy personnel — Re replacement of vessels fitted for flying balloons, crews untrustworthy. (F.O., Humber, 2240/10).

Folkestone — My 2125/6. As Folkestone no longer required for naval, military or cross-Channel services, urge port should be closed and immobilised. (V.A., Dover, 1843/10).

Civil Aerodromes round coast — Action taken to block temporarily. (Air Min., 1900/10).

Scapa — Tablecloth Net being supplied to Scapa for A/B Defence at rate of 2 miles per week. First consignment left Rosyth 5th June sufficient will be supplied for defence of all entrances including Eastern Sounds. Request immediate report of number and size of additional Blockships required. (D. of L.D. 1615/10 to C. in C., H.F.).

Operation C.P.

Dieppe blocked. (VEGA 0619/10 to Adty.)

Operation "Cycle".

CALCUTTA — To remain at Harwich till channel reported clear (C. in C., Nore, 0416/10).

Havre Situation 0600 — Situation 0600/10. Two air-raids during night. Little damage. Refugees mostly gone. Demolition ready. Oil and Petrol Tanks destroyed. W/T with 51st Division still unestablished. (S.N.O. Havre 0700/10 to C. in C. Portsmouth). Small craft should remain near Havre (C. in C. Portsmouth 0845/10 to SALADIN).

CALCUTTA — Sailed from Harwich 0917 for Portsmouth. Expected arrival 1800. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0921/10 to Adty.)

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Cycle" (Contd.)

Havre Situation 0945 — Situation 0945. Total numbers for evacuation estimated at 65,000 of which 23,000 British. Transports should now be sailed. Understood British will command covering line Fecamp/Lillebonne. (S.N.O. Havre 1000/10 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Bombardment — You should arrange for destroyers to assist Army by bombardment as required. Try to get in touch with Army H.Q. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1004/10 to S.N.O.'s Afloat).

Short title for Havre jetties: S Southampton Quay, E Escale Quay, F Floride Quay, O N Oblique Quay North Side, O S Oblique Quay South Side, T G Tide Gauge Jetty West of Southampton Jetty. Promulgate to ships and vessels in your vicinity. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1044/10 to S. & A.)

Places for evacuation — In view of possible evacuation large numbers from places other than Havre request early information of what suitable ports or beaches available (C. in C., Portsmouth 1047/10 to S.N.O. Havre).

Bombardment — Daily signal will be made of expected position of left of line for following day. Ships should bombard any Enemy seen to Eastward. (N.L.O. 51st Divn. 1147/10 to Adty.)

Disposal of troops — British Forces when evacuated will proceed to Cherbourg (C. in C., Portsmouth 1151/10 to S.N.O. Havre).

Evacuation ports — If enemy A.F.Vs south of Fecamp appear to constitute a large force, S.N.T.O. Havre and naval Captains there are considering evacuation main body 51st Divn. from ports between Fecamp and St. Valery. (Telephone G.C. Havre with G.S.O.3 M.O.4 at 1430/10).

M.Vs to be turned back — Turn British Merchant Ships back to Havre (S.N.O. Afloat Havre 1447/10 to BROKE).

C. in C. leaving — Your 1035 M.T.B. 29 leaving Havre with C. in C. this evening (C. in C. Portsmouth 1530/10 to Adty.)

10.6.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Cycle" (Contd.)

Bombardment — Bombard enemy attacking Dieppe from Eastward. British hold west bank of river. (N.L.O. 1535/10 to ships).

Beach at Veulette suitable for evacuation by small craft. About 60 being taken off now (BOADICEA 1620/10 to S.O. Afloat).

Transports and beach parties needed — Position of enemy tanks at 1600 indicates possibility of 12,000 troops requiring evacuation near St. Valerie shortly. Send transport and additional Beach parties. 11,000 troops will have to be evacuated from Havre. (S. in C. Portsmouth at Havre 1640/10).

RESTIGOUCHE, ST. LAURENT, HARVESTER rejoin me 270° Cap de la Heve 7 miles (S.N.O. Afloat Havre 1412/10). My position at 1515 (HARVESTER 1522/10).

9 Transports being sent — My 1500 and your 1430. Nine personnel ships now being sent. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1751/10).

Bombardment — If necessary N.L.O. will indicate particular targets using map C.S.G.S. 4042 sheet 4 S. to E. CARDIFF should be available from p.m. 11th June. Destroyer until then. (N.L.O., 51st Divn., 1148/10).

Fecamp and vicinity unsuccessful. Cypher follows. (AMBUSCADE, 1700/10).

Am escorting boats to northwards of River Durdent. (AMBUSCADE, 1901/10).

Fecamp in hands of enemy. Join CODRINGTON. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 2358/10 to GARDENIA).

Return to Portsmouth (S.N.O. Afloat, Havre, 2133/10 to AMBUSCADE).

2051 from BROKE and 1729 from AMBUSCADE. Am proceeding with GARDENIA to Veulette. (WELLINGTON, 2236/10).

War Diary

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Cycle" (Contd.)

Bombard

Any small number of military personnel evacuated from beaches are to be brought to Havre. (S.N.O. Afloat, Havre, to tug RESOLVE, SALADIN, WELLINGTON, GARDENIA, 2254/10).

Air attack on Havre

Enemy are bombing Havre. (CODRINGTON 1810/10 to Portsmouth W/T) Help Le Havre (CODRINGTON 1907/10).

Warships to keep clear in daylight

Destroyers and other Men of War not to close evacuation areas in daylight except for urgent requirements in control of merchant traffic. (D.O.D. 1951/10 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Situation ashore 2139

Two Brigades from 51st Divn. now co-operating with Havre local defences, but troops very exhausted. French Local Garrison of two Battalions continue to man Fecamp Lillebonne line. No further information of 51st Divn. or 9th French Army. (S.N.O. Havre 2139/10 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Feel cannot rely on French initiative this side. If cannot bring my Divn. to Havre can I count on your being able embark personnel from N. coast. Have only two days rations. (51 Divn. 2145/10 to War Office).

To facilitate withdrawal of French 9th Army to Seine below Caudebec, French Admiral Havre will arrange to re-inforce bridge-head Fecamp/ Lillebonne and prepare means of crossing. (French Adty to O.C. French 9th A.C. 2158/10. D.C. 2346/10).

9

My 1949. Ships may close beaches for divert bombardment of targets of vital importance. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0057/11).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Coast of France

C. in C. Departure 1040 M.T.B. 29 for Havre with C. in C. on board. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1233/10).

Transports being sent 11 fast personnel ships should arrive off Havre this evening. Owing to low endurance these ships will require refuelling if required for second trip or if delayed at Havre. HAMPTON is also being sent. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1500/10 to S.N.O. Afloat).

The 3 ships which are to carry out the operation anticipated for June 13 and their escort force will sail from Cherbourg June 11 and will anchor off Dungeness for waiting hour of operation anticipated for about 0030. (Paris, to C. in C., Portsmouth, 1601/10)

H.M. Canadian destroyers RESTIGOUCHE and St. LAURENT arrival 1700 departure 2000 for operation. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 2023/10).

I too think possible that in this rapidly changing situation that I might ask you embark as much personnel as possible of my division between St. Valery and Mouth of River Durdent, both inclusive. French Corps Commander has joined his headquarters I OM in B. (51st Divn., 2245/10 to Adty.).

Army Reports Following for O.C. French 9th Army Corps from French Admiral Commanding Havre - Instructions from General Weygand, dated June 10. Withdraw upon the Seine down stream Caudebec included. Cover yourself facing the direction Gourney-Rouen by occupying anti-tank resistance points. Accordingly Admiral Le Havre must reinforce Fecamp bridgehead at Fecamp-Lillebonne. High authorities will prepare means of crossing. (Time handed in Havre 2120/10). (Adty., 2335/10, 2346/10).

Caen Cherbourg Opened to ships demagnetised (P.M. Cherbourg 1037/10).

Dieppe Gendarme on board CODRINGTON. Germany now taking over possession of coast of Dieppe to Fecamp. Mechanical Unit. (BULLDOG, 1600/10).

War Diary

10.6.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

M.T.B. Attack on East Coast Convoy.

2 M.T.Bs bearing unknown distance 1 mile course unknown position 52:28 N., 2:4 E. (VIVIEN 0029/10).

3 E boats 52:28 N. 2:4 E. at 0043 (R.A.(S) 0126/10 to submarines on patrol).

2 M.T.Bs torpedoes fired (VIVIEN 0030/10).

3 M.T.Bs still attacking (VIVIEN 0043/10).

At least seven torpedoes fired. So far as known Convoy intact. (VIVIEN to C. in C., Nore, 0240/10).

2 M.T.Bs bearing 270° 1 mile course 090° my position 51:54 N. 3:10 E. (A/c 500 Sqn. 0330/10).

Summary of attacks by E boats on VIVIEN and F.N. 92 from 0012 to 0129 10/6 near 54 B Buoy.

Asdic heard H.E. at about 2½ miles of a boat moving very slowly and intermittently. At high speed H.E. was very loud. The E boats were seen very little and gunfire was guided by Asdic. E boat tactics were to attack from about 800 yards through a screen of dense white smoke and retire behind such a screen. VIVIEN going through a screen in pursuit found E boats waiting to attack behind the screen.

It is possible that the E boats carried bow and stern tubes. The noise of discharge was heard by ear and by Asdic. Torpedoes ran at about 6 feet and exploded at the end of their runs. Very little was heard of the engines of the E boats VIVIEN's speed 15 knots or more.

There was no sign of aircraft or ships in support.

VIVIEN's tactics were to head straight for any E boat heard by Asdic while trying to keep ¼ in. M.G's bearing. Gunfire was hampered by lack of depression of 4 in. and lack of ahead Arcs of ½ in M.G's.

Attacks took place during darkest part of night sea flat calm slight haze visibility about 2500 yards perfect Asdic conditions.
(C. in C., Rosyth, 1939/11).

War Diary

10.6.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

M.T.B. Attack on East Coast Convoy

E boats attempted raid East Coast Convoy last night and were operating from Ymuiden and Hook of Holland. To intercept them on their return all available large M.T.Bs to proceed in company to reach 270° Ymuiden 10' by 0300/11 and then spread and sweep at slow speed on course 270° returning to base if no enemy sighted by 0430/11. Aireraft will co-operate. (C. in C., Nore 1520/10 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

Attack on Ships and Convoys from Norway.

DEVONSHIRE picked up report of 2 pocket battleships from GLORIOUS 1615 and 1640 at 1715, but owing to various circumstances believed it to have been an error and did not report it. DEVONSHIRE estimates she was about 130 miles from GLORIOUS and 250 miles from the main part of Group II. (C.S.1 2103/10, 1111/11).

Detailed report from Master of S.S. ATLANTIS of shelling of ORAMA at about 0900/8 near 67:44 N., 3:52 E. by German battleship (A.C.O.S. 1839/10).

Norwegian Coast

Torpedo attack on Enemy Ships in Trondheim is not to be carried out pending further instructions. (1 S.L. to C. In C. H.F. 1439/10).

My 1439/10. Canal operation against Trondjheim. Concentrate on ships eported in Clyde's 1400/10 (see Enemy Intelligence) (D.O.D.H. 1526/10 to C. in C. H.F.)

Asking estimate of numbers of JU 87 dive bombers, fighters, etc., operating from Trondheim and other aerodromes Stavanger to Bodo. If ships operate in the vicinity 63:14 N., 04:00 E., could protection be given by Blenheims from Sumburgh (C. in C., H.F., ~~XXXXX~~ 1234/10 to Adty.)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Iceland

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA — Escorted by EMERALD. Movements (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1411/10).

Submarines

Positions — 0600/11 (V.A.S. 2117/10, 2309/10).

Pro Havet — Orders to TRIBUNE and PORPOISE. Object of submarines off F.o Havet is to attack and then report enemy war vessels and escorted merchant ships. (V.A.S., 1949/10).

RUBIS — Ordered to QZS 44. Route (Capt. S.9 1809/10 to RUBIS).

Air.

British Air Activity

Reconnaissance of Aalesund and fiords (Donibristle, 1615/10).
Reconnaissance of Trondheim and approaches (Donibristle, 1105/10).

Propose that aircraft recognition signals should change every 6 hours, thus ensuing two different sets of signals each night. (D.S.D. 1950/10 to Air Min.)

Re attack on Enemy main units at Trondheim

What is present estimate of numbers (a) JU 87 Dive-Bombers (b) Immersed Bombers (c) Fighters operating from Trondheim and other aerodromes Stavanger to Bodo. If ships operate near 63:14 N., 4:00 E. could protection be given by Blenheims from Sumburgh. (C. in C. H.F. 1234/10 to Adty.).

Your 1234/40. Air Min. estimate (a) Between 50 and 120 long range Bombers Heinkel 111 type. (b) 40 single-engined Fighters Me 109 (c) 40 twin-engined Fighters Me. 110. (d) some Reconnaissance aircraft. Coastal Command have only nine Blenheim aircraft so could not give much protection, but everything possible would be done with Blenheims and Hudsons. (D.C. 2119/10 to C. in C., H.F.)

HOME COMMANDS

Air

Enemy Air Activity

BULLDOG
BOADICEA

Bombed 1738 in 49:53 N., 0:28 BULLDOG received 3 hits, damaged, steering for Portsmouth. BOADICEA damaged unable to steam. (BULLDOG, 1742/10, 1810/10, 1900/10) BOADICEA engineer and 5 ratings killed, 2 wounded. (AMBUSCADE 0100/11).

RIVER NESS

British Fishing Trawler attacked by German plane N.E. of Skerries (Wick Radio 1427/10) Was bombed and sunk by aircraft about 8 miles N. of Outer Skerries 1415/10. Skipper and one other were landed at Lerwick by fishing trawler BRACON DENE. Eight others of crew missing. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 2005/10).

CODRINGTON

Help, Le Havre. (CODRINGTON 1818/10, 1835/10).

Mining.

Enemy Minefield

A new field of contact mines has been located in 54:00 N., 0:14.5 E., 12 miles S.E. of Flamborough in the searched channel. 13 mines were swept and sunk on 8/6, three more 10/6, and two more two miles to the north the same day. It is believed that these are Dutch mines laid by the Germans. (I.C., 0478/40).

Enemy Intelligence

Summary from I.C. 0478/40.

Norwegian Coast.

0810

Aircraft reported following in or near Trondheim:-
1 battle cruiser,
2 HIPPER class cruisers,
1 NURNBERG class cruiser,
4 destroyers,
3 E boats.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

Norwegian Coast (Contd.)

1400 — CLYDE reported one P.B., one HIPPER class, 64:45 N., 9:45 E., about 67' N. of Trondheim, steering 300°. NOTE -- It is not thought a P.B. could have been present. (IC.0478/40)

1800 — Aircraft reported only 1 battle cruiser, 2 destroyers at Trondheim.

am/10/6 — Aircraft reconnaissance reported 30 merchant vessels at Bergen and another 13 in adjacent fiords.

pm/10/6 — Aircraft reconnaissance report 30 merchant vessels in various anchorages in vicinity of Aalesund, Kristiansand (N), Molde and Romsdals Fiord, also numerous small craft 14' Southward of Aalesund.

German

Main units — My 0846. Pilot reports one SHARNHORST two HIPPER class, one large destroyer, several E boats, anchored off Trondheim town; also one other cruiser, possibly Pocket Battleship, anchored about 6 miles east of town. Signs of Boom at entrance. (C. in C., Rosyth 1034/10, 0915/10, 0954/10) (Donibristle, 1245/10).

At 0700/10 one NURNBERG class cruiser anchored at mouth of Skjorufjorde and another unidentified cruiser off Fevaag; and one 3-funnelled 10,000 ton M/V anchored with warships off Trondheim. Boom across mouth of Orkedal Fiorde. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1202/10).

Aircraft of 254 Sqdn. reconn. Trondheim and approaches at 0615, 2 destroyers observed steaming 050° 28 knots in position 315 Bud, 8 miles, 63:00 N., 6:41 E. At 0640, 3 M.T.Bs at Nordvz 100 LN anchored. At 0650 NURNBERG class cruiser anchored at Moutjorn Fiord. At 0730 anchor off mouth of Trondheim were SCHARNHORST and either 2 HIPPER class cruisers or one cruiser and one DEUTSCHLAND class P.B. also 2 small destroyers and one 3-funnelled M.V. of 10,000 tons. At 0745 at mouth of Orkedale Fiord submarine net stretched across from Gjeitestranden towards Stadsbygden with gap at northern end. Two oil tankers at Thamshaum and mineral refinery bombed, two tankers and factory set on fire. At 0805, intercepted 2 original destroyers heading towards Christiansand. (Donibristle, 1105/10).

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence.

One Pocket Battleship, one HIPPER class cruiser at 64:35 N. 9:45 E. course 300° (CLYDE 1400/10 to Adty.)
Note: It is not thought a pocket battleship could have been present. (I.C.0478/40).

Sunderland to locate

CLYDE's 1400/10. Sunderland leaving Sullom Voe about 1600 to locate and shadow enemy force. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1518/10).

D.F. at 1730/10, bearing of unknown enemy unit was Scarborough 033/2 (D.D.I.C. 1840/10).

D.F. bearings received 2315/10, estimated position off Trondheim, (D.D.I.C., 2359/10).

Main Units

Air reconnaissance reported 1 German battle cruiser, 1 pocket battleship and 3 cruisers in Trondheim fiorde this am. This pm one pocket battleship and 1 cruiser were reported north of Fro Lavet course 300° (D.C. 1932/10).

Aircraft report only 1 battle cruiser, 2 destroyers and 1 merchant vessel at Trondheim at 1800 (C. in C., Rosyth, 2158/10).

D.F., at 2240/10. Position of unknown enemy unit was 58:40 N., 5:0 E., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2311/10).

Merchant Ships

Aircraft reconnaissance reported 30 merchant vessels at Bergen am/10 and another 13 inadjacent fiords. (I.C. 0478/40).

Aircraft reconnaissance reported pm/6 30 merchant vessels in various anchorages near Aalsund, Christiansand N., Molde and Romsdals fiord, and numerous small craft 14 miles south-westward of Aalsund. (I.C. 0478/40).

These ships are reported as varying from 1000 to 4000 tons, and were grouped in the Fiords as follows:- 4,2,3,6,4,1,5,5. This dispersal has not been reported previously in such detail and gives rise to the suspicion that they may be transports dispersed for the purpose of concealing their concentration. (C.I.C. Report No.12).

RUEGEN

Taken up by German Govt. as hospital ship (M.08348/40).

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

War with Italy. War will commence with Italy at 0001 B.S.T., Tuesday 11/6. You must not go to Italian ports. (D.T.D., to British ships in all areas, 1916/10).

Enemy Main units at sea. All convoys are to steer for Long. 006°W., then due south (Adty 0642/10 to ELDORADO, LINCOLN CITY, NORTHERN SPRAY, LILAC, C-in-C., H.F.).

All convoys or groups of trawlers proceeding to Scapa are to steer toward Long. 6°W and then due South (D.C.D.(H) 1524/10 to THIRLMERE, KILLARNEY).

Measures to counter E-boat attack. In view of threat of E-Boat attack near straits of Dover it is intended that as far as possible shipping should pass this area in daylight. All ships bound up-Channel, including those in convoy, should therefore pass Dungeness to arrive Southend within one hour of sunset. (D.T.D.1710/10).

OA.HA., Convoys. Sailing times. (Re. Adty. 1626/9 re. U-boat attacks of E. Coast) (C-in-C., W.A. 1511/10).

WASHINGTON Leaves Lisbon 10/6 arriving Galway 12/6. She is to be allowed to proceed without interruption (C-in-C., W.A., 1642/10).

Convoy Programme. After consultation with C-in-C., Nore intend to adopt following convoy programs in fulfilment of your 1626/9.

(A) Include ships of 8½ knots.
(b) FS. arrive Southend 1900.
(c) FN. leave Southend 0500.

Times of arrival and departure from Southend have had to be adjusted to reduce risk of convoys meeting in dark at junction of channels near wreck buoy 53°04'N., 01°30'E., and for this purpose FS. will use QZS.52,40 and 30 whilst FN. use QZS 51, 41 and 42 so that should they meet they will pass Port to Port. Time of FN. sailing will also allow group sailing to leave at 0400. Southbound group sailing will leave so as to arrive Southend 1830. In this connection it is considered group sailing should be reduced to a minimum and all possible traffic should be diverted to west coast. These arrangements can only be considered as temporary whilst long hours of daylight last and even so fog or other delays may cause a difficult situation to arise there being no safe anchorages after the Humber until Knock Deep or Knob Channel are reached. It is noticed that additional protection is contemplated for convoys in southern half of route this is considered very necessary protection for these big convoys against fast moving vessels. It is also for consideration that same anchored form of protection should be

/placed.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping (Contd.).

Recent trials carried out in accordance with Admiralty 1911/31/5 have given satisfactory results and would appear to be suitable for this form of protection. (C-in-C., Rosyth., 2324/10., F.O. Adty).

Miscellaneous

Submarine Wreck Moored over submarine with bower anchor, trawl warp, and kedge anchor. Wreck heavily listed to starboard. Advice tidal conditions prelude protracted diving operations. Working to enter on neap tide. (Diving Officer, Cape Finisterre, 1730/10)

H.M.S. THELAWNEY Name of a base being established at Kyle of Lochalsh fora secret operation (R.A. (M.L.) 16.5.40)

WEATHER

	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	Light variable	Moderate Extensive fog patches	Similar
Channel	Light variable	Moderate to good. Fog patches.	Visibility Improving
Western Approaches	Light variable No reports received.	10-12 miles	Similarity
Horns Reef	N.W. light to moderate	Probable weather 6-9 miles	Similar
W. Coast Norway	Northerly Moderate	8-10 miles near coast fog to West ward.	Similar

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

CITY OF ATHENS (Reported overdue 9/6) Arrived Cape Town (S.O.(1) Cape Town 1028/10, D.T.D. 1605/11)

OREGON (Danish) Reported overdue 9/6 arrived Cape Town 10/6 (S.O. (1) Cape Town 1708/10)

War Diary

10.6.1940.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Contraband Control — Admty. 1739/6. Have instructed Gibraltar Patrol to comply with Naval Prize manual but that in event of escorting ship disputing right to visit and search no force is to be used and further instructions obtained. Request definite instructions whether under existing circumstances force is to be used. (F.O.C.N.A., 1154/10)

Ocean Convoys — D.C. 1901/10 to B.N.L.O. Marseau.

WASHINGTON — Leaving Galway with U.S. citizens. Course. (N.C.S.O. 1245/10)

South Atlantic

Sal — Reported as evacuated by Italian staff, small number nucleus crew remaining with 3 planes (Sierra Leone 1825/10)

Mediterranean

JERVIS / GARLAND — Your 1943/4. Intended that JERVIS should proceed to Mediterranean as leader of 14th D.F. on completion of repairs at end of June and GARLAND join 1st D.F. in Home Waters. In view of present situation in Mediterranean the sailing of GARLAND is left to your discretion. (A.C.N.S. (A) 1225/10 to C. in C., Med.)

Air Action — Hostilities with Italy commence at midnight 10th June. Carry out any offensive operation for which you consider your squadron suitably trained and equipped. (5 S.L. 2010/10 to B.N.L.O., Toulon for C.O., 767 Sqdn.)

Block Ship — Admty. 1352/8. KNIGHT OF MALTA being sailed a.m. 13/6. MARGIT not ready for sea, held at Malta by owners for sale, considered only fit for block ship or hulk. (V.A., Malta, 1801/10)

Canal Lights — To be extinguished. This involves suspending navigation during dark hours. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area, 1714/10)

War Diary

10.6.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean. Contd.

Embassy Staff

Requesting name and type of ship to convey members of Italian Embassy Staff to Lisbon. Italian Govt. are sending British Embassy Staff in s.s. CONTE ROSSO. (Rome, 1313/10 to D.N.I.)

Italian Submarines

Information received (B.1.) that transports taking troops from Syria to France believed sailing tonight June 10 will be attacked by Italian submarines. Same source states Cyprus will be attacked when Italy enters war. Please inform War Office. (Rome, 1059/10)

German Battle Cruiser

It appears possible that a German battle cruiser may attempt to pass Straits tonight Monday to join Italian Fleet. (1st S.L., to F.O.C.N.A., 1948/10)

Minefields

Informing C. in C., Med., of all minefields reported. (D.N.I., 1920/10, 1901/10)

Sweeps by Allied Fleets

Intend to leave harbour at 0300 11th June with H.M.S. WARSPITE H.M.S. MALAYA H.M.S. EAGLE 7th Cruiser Squadron and available destroyers. Battleships will proceed north west and then along south coast Crete to reach approximate position 80 miles south of Cape Matapan 1200 12th June.

7th Cruiser Squadron will carry out sweep to westward until dark on 11th June then return to attack any patrol off Benghazi and Tobruk at daylight 12th June subsequently joining me about 1200 12th June.

Vice Admiral Force X has been instructed to proceed from Beirut as soon as possible with what force he thinks fit to sweep towards Dodecanese and Aegean North of Crete returning Alexandria p.m. 13th June. (C. in C., Med. 2243/10)

Enemy Plans

Budapest British Minister, reports transport of Italian army of 700,000 men to Libya on large liners will be completed by midnight tonight. Belief is that major attack will be against Egypt and the Sudan. Much discontent in the Fascist Party at the appointment of De Bono instead of Balbo.

War Diary

10.6. 1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Enemy Plans, Contd.

Much uneasiness at the prospect of bombing of refineries at Fiume, Trieste and Bari.

Twelve Lloyd Triestino Ships converted into Hospital Ships have been moved to Bari and Brindisi. (D.N.I., 1953/10)

Oil Reserves

Your 2215/8. Vulnerability of Shore Reserves of oil in Eastern Mediterranean is fully appreciated. It will help to keep oilers in sight and to conserve tonnage if you make fullest possible use of Haifa refinery by sending empty tankers there to load instead of sending them into the Red Sea. Further, once available tankage at Haifa has been filled with oil fuel from refinery it will be necessary to close down refinery. You should begin drawing on Haifa refinery as soon as possible. (4th S.L., 1559/10 to C. in C., Med.)

East Indies

Hospital Ship

Your 2122/22/5. Intend using ELLENGA or EGRA. (P.S.T.O., East Indies, 11102/25/5 received 1241/10/6)

British Merchant Ships

In Red Sea to proceed as follows. North bound ships north of 15° N to Suez, south of 15° to Mombasa if bunkers permit, otherwise to Aden thence via Cape. Southbound ships north of 20° N return to Suez, south of 20° N continue on voyage. All above proceed at full speed and zig-zag by day or in bright moonlight. (A Stg. 1931/10)

Asking for attention to his 0603/29/12, censorship of ships names, times and dates of arrival etc., (Colombo 19492/10)

Until further orders any British or Norwegian Merchant ships bound for Suez or Red Sea ports with Government Cargo is to be sent to Bombay. (C. in C., E.I. 23072/10)

War Diary

10.6.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

DUNDEE

Leave Trinidad as convenient 11/6 for Georgetown to consult with Governor, British Guiana, as to local defences, returning Trinidad by 15/6. (C. in C. A.W.I., to DUNDEE, 1031/10)

FIJI to intercept Italian Ships

As the present is probably only chance of catching straggling Italian shipping I have sent FIJI to Florida Straits for 2 or 3 days. This will delay her working up by about 1 week. (C. in C., A.W.I. 2254/10)

CAPO NOLI Scuttled

Italian, gounded at Bic Island set on fire 48.25'N 68.53'W H.M.C. BRASDOR standing by (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2057/10)

Dispositions

Jamaica Force. West Indies Oil Protective Force to take up disposition as in my 1151/8. DIOMEDE proceed to Bermuda at best possible speed. My 0952/10 to DUNEDIN and 1031/10 to DUNDEE are cancelled. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1431/10)

My 1431. In view of uncertainty of Dutch position regarding Italy. You should extend you patrol so as to include Curacao and Puerto Cabello. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1512/10, to DUNEDIN)

My 1431. After fuelling Bermuda, FIJI direct to Florida Straits, YPRES to Cape Hatteras then search southwards to Florida Straits. (C. in C., A.W.I. 2202/10)

Colon reports Belgian Consul has re-received instructions from source in Belgian territory that he will have to make arrangements to place Belgian tankers under Panamanian registry. (B3) (S.O.I., Kingston 0852/10)

China

TJIKANDI

Dutch, suspect. (C.O.S. Singapore 06422/10)

War Diary

10.6.1940.
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

ADALIA — Will arrive Dantzig 1100/10

JACOBUS FRITZEN — Anchored off Gjedser 1900/8.

SIZILIEN — Ordered at 1116/9 to unload at Emden.

BRANDENBURG — Ordered at 1150/9 to Brunsbuttel for orders (P/L W/T intercepts, I.C. 0477/40)

Foreign Stations

MARITZA — Reported to have sailed from Trieste 7/6 (probably for a Yugo-Slav port for bauxite (I.C. 0477/40)

KONIGSBERG — Sailed Para 28/5 now about due patrol Description (F.O.C.N.P. 1154/10 to Northern Patrol)

ARAUCA — At Port Everglades, Florida, reported 10/6 to have just received 500 tons fuel (I.C. 0478/40)

War Diary

10.6.1940
Monday

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

PROCIDA — In Cardiff Docks seized and crew handed to police. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2115/10)

PELLICE, MUGHONE, PAMIA, BARBARA G, MOSCARDIN — At Methil under guard, crews handed to police. (C. in C. Rosyth 2359/10 to Admty.)

ANDREA, ELIOS, G. LAURO, MARZOCCO — Seized ANDREA and ELIOS at Newcastle, GIOACHINO LAURO at Hartlepool. Patrol Trawlers have intercepted MARZOCCO and due Peterhead with her about 0400/11 (C. in C. Rosyth 2359/10 to Admty.) MARZOCCO was scuttled later, but went ashore.

ERICA, MINCIO, GABIANO, A. LAURO — ERICA, 4704 tons, MINCIO 5404 tons, GABBIANO 6584 tons, and ANGELINA LAURO 5787 tons seized and crews interned. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0001/11 to Admty.)

There is strong reason to believe that on declaration of war by Italy Italian ships have been directed to make for Norway, probably N. Part, or failing that for Ireland. A.2. (Secreat Service No T.O.O. Med. 1700/10)

Foreign Stations

BARBARA, BRONTE — BARBARA, BRONTE, proceeded Bandar Shapur pending completion of financial arrangements for payment for cargo. Oil Co. will also in any case only load at bar. I have concurred in this policy which may have diplomatic reperoussions judging from reactions of Italian masters. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1120Z/10)

GERUSALEMME — Left Durban 1200 G.M.T./10 for Beira. RANCHI to shadow and intercept if she attempts to enter Portugese Territorial waters and send to Mombasa under armed guard or escort for C.C. purposes (C. in C. E.I. 1156Z/10)

War Diary

10.6.1940.
Monday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Foreign Stations, Contd.

Cape Town	Positions of Italian ships in this area (S.O.I., Capetown, 2238/10)
Melbourne	Positions of Italian ships in this area (D.N.I. Melbourne 08132/10)
UMBRIA	Your 1725/9 (Personal Circulation) Action has been taken as suggested. (D.O.D.F. 0120/10 to C. in C., Medo) Has scuttled his ship. She is sinking slowly. I am going through the motions of salving or beaching her (F.O.C. 4 C.S. 1708/10)
VETTORIA	To be held at Port Said pending decision a.m. today. (D.O.D.F. 0121/10 to C. in C., Med.)
ROMOLO	In Torres Strait 7th believed bound for Yokohama. MANOORA proceeding to locate and shadow. (Australian N.B. 0600 Z/10 to Admty)
	All Italian Ships instructed Wireless Messages no longer allowed. Messages between owners and masters allowed only via Italian coastal stations. (D.N.I. Melbourne 0813Z/10 to Admty.)
VELOX KOSEIR SANTA LIBERATA CAPO NOLI	Arrived Haifa 10th June. Detained. (C.C.S.O. Haifa, 0915C/10, 2359C/10 to Admty.) Scuttled, see Admty
	Ships with particularly suspicious cargoes were reported on 10/6 as follows:-
FORTUNATA	(2715 tons) from New York due Gibraltar 10/6 but received orders to go and coal at a Spanish port.
BURMA	(2896 tons) from New York due Gibraltar on 8/6 but has not reported.
IDA	(6131 tons) from New York due Gibraltar June 10-11.
INDIA	(6367 tons) from Calcutta due at Assab 6/6 but may have gone to Massawa.
SAVOIA	(5490 tons) from Calcutta left Colombo on 6/6 is due at Aden 13/6. Position 1200/10 10.30'N 65.W (I.C. 0477Z40)

War Diary

10.6.1940.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

SYRINGA — H.M. M/S T missed by torpedo, 54.33' N 0.34'W., 025° Whitby 4' (B.2.) at 1933 /10. (I.C., 0478/10)

Submarines Reported

0728 — D.F. bearings indicate probable U-boat 60 miles N.W. Cape Finisterre at 0728 (F.O.C.N.A., 1707/10)

1110 — Unknown enemy unit probably U-boat approx. 60 miles N.W. Cape Finisterre at 1110/10. (C. in C. W.A. 1459/10, D.D.I.C. 1415/10)

0953 — By D/F 56.35' N 5.50'E position of unknown enemy unit, unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 1033/10)

1225 — By D/F unknown enemy unit probable U-boat to northward of Faroes. (D.D.I.C. 1332/10)

1024 — By D/F unknown enemy unit probable U-boat 59.30'N 2.30'E. Unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 1106/10)

0633 — Aircraft reported submarine 60.4'N 1. 50'E course 350° speed 8 knots submarine dived on sighting aircraft (C. in C. Rosyth 1126/10)

0630 — 60.5'N 1.40'E course 000° (Capt (S) 9 1837/10 to RUBIS)

D.F. bearings indicate U-boat patrols between Shetland Is. and Norwegian coast. (D.D.I.C., 2359/10)

2200 / 2240 — 56.53'N 2.10'W Shore report D.3. (C. in C., Rosyth 2344/10, 2336/10)

2222 — 55.4'N 1.13'W Reported by dan laying yacht YARTA (C. in C., Rosyth 2346/10.

2145 — 58.55'N 2.30'E Indefinite position (I.C.O.14[illegible]8/40) (D.D.I.C., 2226/10)

D.R. — 54.29'N 0.29'W Reported by SYRINGA

1617 — By D/F 59.0'N 0.30'E Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1645/10)

War Diary

10.6.1940.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

1712 — By D/F 58.33'N 5.13'E. Unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 1755/10)

1512 — By D/F 56. N 9.30'W Unreliable fix D.D.I.C. 1816/10)

1333 — 59.10' N 1.30'E indefinite position (I.C. 0478/40)

Estimated Dispositions

1 in Bay of Biscay.
1 West of Ireland, homeward bound.
1 North of Shetlands, homeward bound.
3 in North Sea.
(D.D.I.C. 1150/10)

U-boat possibly through Fair Isle Channel E to W tonight, Monday. D.D.I.C., 1851/10)

Submarines Attacked

0152 — Trawler HICKORY attacked southbound submarine at 120° Hartlepool 3' (C. in C., Rosyth 0256/10) WOOLSTON to investigate. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0707/10)

2048 — Attacked submarine in 61.42 N., 3.56 W 297° Muckle Flugga 100' (WHIRLWIND, 2048/10, to REPULSE and N.O.I.C. Scapa Flow) Continue hunt until successful or for 24 hours (REPULSE to WHIRLWIND 2148/10)

War Diary

11.6.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

France

Operation "Cycle"

Evacuation of British and French troops from Havre proceeded, although of the transports which were waiting during the afternoon one was set on fire and 2 beached following air attack. All lighting and water services in Havre were cut off at 1200.

Off St. Valery the ships were kept at sea by fog, and little was accomplished. Ashore, it was reported at 0830/11 that transport was very disorganised and the enemy were all round. It was estimated that there were 60,000 troops in all, "very few of value." Air support was required all day. It was intended to embark the whole force tonight. Petrol, rations and ammunition are short.

Formed units are to be conveyed to Cherbourg, unformed to the U.K.

Paris

The French Government left Paris today for Tours.

Cherbourg

3 magnetic mines were exploded in Cherbourg.

Air.

Attack on Ships in Trondheim

One battlecruiser, 2 cruisers, 3 destroyers and 2 supply ships were reported at anchor in Trondheim 1000/11 by a coastal command aircraft which had been searching the area. 12 Hudsons attacked these ships at 1427/11, and 36 250 lb. bombs were dropped. Three direct hits were seen on the 2 cruisers and one of the supply ships is also thought to have been hit. Two of our aircraft were lost.

The W/T stations on Utsire (S. Norway) was bombed at 0825/11 and two near misses were made to the W/T mast.

Normal coastal patrols were flown 11/6 and all dusk and night patrols.

German aircraft were active near Sumburgh Head (Shetlands), possibly engaged in mine laying.

War Diary

11.6.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

NORWAY.

VANDYCK sunk

A report from Stockholm states that ~~A.H.C.~~ transport VANDYCK was sunk off Andenes 'Harstad) pm/10. 5 of her crew are missing and 6 seriously wounded. It is thought she was torpedoed.

Concentration of shipping

Air reconnaissance yesterday located 30 German merchant ships dispersed in fiords between Kristiansand North and Aalesund. These may be transports, and if so, their maximum carrying capacity may be about one division of troops.

Italian Hostilities

Air raid on Malta

Italian aircraft made three attacks on Malta between 0450 and sunset. In the first raid 10 planes were employed of which 4 were shot down. Little damage was done nd there were few casualties. The dockyard was not damaged. The first raids were on military objectives, but the last was definitely indiscriminate. bombing.

A further 8 Italian ships were captured today and 10 scuttled themselves though only one succeeded in actually sinking herself, the remainder being beached or captured. MARZOCCO which was intercepted yesterday, is reported to be ashore near Peterhead.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Coast defences — In addition to Batteries enumerated in Adty. 1956/28/5 it is proposed further to strengthen Coast Defences with 6" and 4.7" Naval Guns. (D. of L.D. 1729/11 to all C. in C.'s).

Stour — Port scheme (D. of L.D., 2000/11).

Suggested use of Fishing Nets by Auxiliary Patrol Craft anchored at night to foul propellors of possible high speed landing craft. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1900/11 to Adty.)

Movements

Brightlingsea A.P. Base H.M.S. NEMO — Vice Admiral Gordon Campbell open Auxiliary Patrol base at Brightlingsea as Captain a.m. 11/6. Name of base ship NEMO. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea, 1831/11).

Submarines — Positions 0600/12. (V.A.S. 1602/11, D.C., 1736/11 amended 2319/11).

HOOD DORSETSHIRE — To join U.S.3 at 0900 G.M.T./14. Position. To be detached to Gibraltar when HOOD joins convoy. (V.C.N.S. 2049/11) To join U.S.3 to supplement Convoy escort force as ordered by SHROPSHIRE (1st S.L. 1548/11).

Destroyers — On their arrival at Sullom Voe, FEARLESS take destroyers under his orders and proceed to 63:00 N., 05:00 W., thence steer north to join C. in C., H.F. (R.A.D., H.F. 1216/11).

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Cycle"

Situation St. Valery — Wounded embarked BROKE and GARDENIA going to Portsmouth. WELLINGTON, H.M.C.S. ST. LAURENT STALWART, Tug RESOLVE one Troop Carrier and a French Boat near, GOLDEN HARVEST and GOLDEN NEWS returning to Havre being unable to stay in St. Valery Harbour at low water. RESTIGOUCHE off Veules taking Troops from beach. Officer landed saw Chief of Staff 51 Division. (Broke 0530/11).

BROKE — Arrived St. Valery. Am establishing communication with Military. (BROKE 0055/11 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

GARDENIA shelled — Being shelled by Shore Batteries at 0615 127° St. Valerie 7 miles (C. in C., Portsmouth 0755/11, GARDENIA 0615/11).

Air attack — Dive bombing on Transports Le Havre (HARVESTER 1233/11).

Am being attacked by enemy aircraft at 310 Feecamp 7 (? CODRINGTON 1218/11 to Culver W/T Station).

Ships to keep clear of coast. — Pending decision as to evacuation as far as possible all ships to be kept clear of coast (C. in C., Portsmouth 0308/11).

Disposition of evacuated troops — Your 0232. All formed bodies to go to Cherbourg. Shiploads of stragglers to U.K. Small numbers to Havre. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0525/11 to S.N.O. small craft).

St. Valerie situation — Transport very disorganised. Am organising bridgehead as enemy all round. Estimate 60,000 troops in all, very few of value. Air support required all day. Suggest attempt evacuate this evening, too many for dark. All French expect evacuation. (Neta 0830/11 to War Office).

Force to embark tonight — Intend embark whole force tonight if enough ships and boats available. If cannot complete tonight propose continue A.M. Wednesday. French now 5000 but may reach 10,000, time and beaches will be signalled. Embarkation tonight considered essential owing probability of attack and shortage petrol, rations, and ammunition. (51st Divn., 0845/11 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

War Diary

11.6.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Cycle"

Situation St. Valery 0952 — 51st Divn. is formed in hollow square on St. Valery. S.W. flank extends to Dudent River, N.E. flank 4 miles from St. Valery extending about 6 miles inland. N.L.O. arranging with H.Q. for evacuation. (SALADIN 0952/11 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Cherbourg — Facilities intact and port open to treated ships (B.N.L.O. Marceau 0957/1 to Adty.)

Impossible for Corps Cdr. approach Seine. He estimates now 10,000 and British 12,000, total 22,000. Air control round bridgehead essential (51 Divn. 1010/11 to W.O.).

Apportionment of responsibility — Appreciate evacuation 51st Divn. is matter for French decision and have told French Admiral so. My object is to maintain sufficient craft on coast for evacuation if required. Small craft in squadrons under S.O. in SALADIN and transports controlled by S.O. Afloat in CODRINGTON. No last minute action possible as most vessels very slow and limited endurance. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1023/11 to 1st S.L.).

Havre — Air-raids throughout greater part of night with minor damage to Docks. Brigadier considers local defence position weak owing exhaustion of British Troops. French rearguard troops now entering town. Estimated 11,000 British for evacuation here (S.N.O. Havre 1030/11 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

HARVESTER shelled — Am being shelled 10' W. of Havre. No hits (HARVESTER 1239/11).

French to give orders — No evacuation to be carried out without French authority. Give information most suitable places for landing supplies. (W.O. to 51st. Divn. 1240/11).

Ships to retire — In view of bombing, Warships and Transports off Havre and Valery to retire north-westward and be prepared to return (C. in C. Portsmouth 1328/11 to CODRINGTON).

St. Valery — Appears possible evacuation in St. Valery area may be up to 60,000 and may begin this evening. Do you need more transports tonight. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1412/11 to CODRINGTON).

11.6.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operation "Cycle"

Shelling

Heavy shell and air bombardment on St. Valery and Veules. Impossible land either place at present. Small craft collecting 5 to 7 miles to seaward (S.N.O. Afloat Havre 1417/11 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Your 1412. Yes. (CODRINGTON 1516/11 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Air support required

Continuous air support required to neutralise enemy air and batteries. (N.L.O. to C. in C. Portsmouth, Recd. 1622/11).

Scale of enemy air attack will now prohibit ships and small craft working during daylight hours on French Coast (D.O.D.H. 1537/11 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Havre being heavily bombed (VEGA 2323/11).

Tonight last chance of evacuation

51st Divn. now reports tonight last possible chance evacuating 12,000 British and 12,000 French. You may continue in daylight if enemy opposition permits. Strong air support asked for. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2315/11 to S.N.O. Afloat).

30 Ships being sent

12 French Patrol Vessels 800 each, 6 400 each, and 12 trawlers 50 each being sent from Havre to assist evacuation (C. in C., Portsmouth 2155/11 to CODRINGTON).

Disposition of troops evacuated

Cancel Adty. 2056/9. Ships bringing off troops are to proceed as follows:- (a) From Havre. Formed bodies of British to Cherbourg. Only French to any French port. Mixed or unformed British to U.K. (b) From other ports or beaches. Only French to any French port. Mixed or British to U.K. Ports for disembarkation in U.K. are Portsmouth, Southampton, Weymouth, or Newhaven (D.O.D.H. 2055/11 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Carrying capacity of vessels about 17,500 (CODRINGTON 2048/11 to 51st Divn.).

French authority given. (51st Divn. 2030/11 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Owing to loss of 4 transports request 4 more sent as soon as possible (S.N.O. Havre 1915/11 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

HOME COMMANDS.

Operation "Cycle"

Evacuation to commence

Intend commence evacuation forthwith (S.N.O. Havre 1740/11 to S.N.O.A).

Proceed with evacuation of troops as soon as you can arrange it. (S.N.O. Havre, 1637/11 to CODRINGTON).

Can we have air reconnaissance and systematic bombing of any movement seen. (51st Divn. 1830/11 to W.O.).

French Coast

Warships not to embark troops

In view of importance of conserving naval forces for other operations, it is Adty.'s policy that warships should be used only to cover and organize an evacuation and not for embarkation of troops. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1112/11 to S.N.O. Afloat in CODRINGTON).
Your 1112/11 Adty. have no objection to destroyers being used to carry troops but do not wish them to be unnecessarily exposed to bombers by day. (D.O.D.(H) 2027/11 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Operation"Lyster"

Operation H completed (C.O."H" Force 0045/11 to Adty.)

French Coast

Following from GARDENIA. Warn H.M.S. SNAPPER French Coast German shore shelling Fecamp. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 0816/11).

Operation C.P.

Have turned over duties of S.N.O. Afloat, Havre to VEGA and am proceeding to Saint Valery before sailing. (S.N.O. Afloat, Havre, 1125/11).
Am being attacked by enemy aircraft position Havre (VEGA 1420/11 to Whitehall).
Dive bombing attack by large number aircraft one transport on fire two hit and beached. Request Fighter protection. (VEGA 1456/11 to Whitehall).
Am being attacked by enemy aircraft Havre. (VEGA 1725/11).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Narvik Area

Names of British vessels now at sea en route from Narvik area are contained in R.A. Narvik's 2006/3, 2006/5, F.O. Narvik's 1520/8 and 0022/8 and F.O.I.C.S. 0803/8 and 0001/8. Admty. 1653/8. Names of Norwegian warships that may be proceeding Faroes (list of 2 guardships, 7 trawlers, 2 whalers, and 2 submarines (B.1 and B.3) (D.O.D.(H), 1628/11 to C. in C., H.F.).

Air

British Air Activity

Attack on ships in Trondheim

By 12 Hudsons of 269 Sqdn. from Sumburgh, left 1130. Over target, 63:26 N., 10:25 E., at 1437. In four flights of three aircraft in line astern 36 S.A.P. 250-lb. bombs dropped in salvo. There were 1 battleship, 2 cruisers, 3 destroyers and 2 supply ships. 1 cruiser in centre was singled out for attack. Aircraft A,B,D and E report direct hits on the bows of the first cruiser, and nearmisses on either side. Aircraft C and D report direct hits on second cruiser. Aircraft O and Q report smoke issuing from one of the supply vessels which were in the pattern of the bombs. Aircraft J reports seeing Hudson aircraft being attacked by 5 enemy fighters of Me.109 type. Aircraft attacked is presumed to be G. which is missing. Aircraft P presumed brought down by A/A fire. Throughout the raid intense and accurate A/A fire experienced from the warships, none observed from the vicinity of the town. No hits were observed on the battleship. (Donibristle A.C.H.Q., 2040/11).

My 1526/10. In view of there being no darkness and the strong fighter force at Trondheim, it has been decided by the Cabinet that an attack on ships in Trondheim by Swordfish aircraft is not justified. Attack by Skuas is at your discretion. (V.C.N.S. [redacted] 1022/11 to C. in C., H.F.).

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

British Air Activity (Contd.)

Bergen etc. Propose to attack Bergen as soon as possible using B Bombs W Mines and all other types of Bombs I can lay hands on at the first available opportunity. Then I consider the enemy naval units at Trondheim should be bombed then Stavanger followed by Trondheim and Bergen etc. Most important to keep the naval units at Trondheim under observation for bombing. (A.D. C. in C., Coastal Command, 2000/11).

Reconnaissance of Trondheim Fiord by Blenheims will be carried out tomorrow Wednesday at 0500, 1030, 1800 hours. (C. in C., Rosyth 2212/11).

Enemy Air Activity

BARON ELPHINSTONE See U-boat Campaign.

Add to my 2119/10 (estimation of German aircraft operating from Norwegian Aerodrome) 1 group of 40 Dive Bombers JU 87 at Trondheim (D.D.I.C. to C. in C., H.F. 0936/11).

Convoy Attacked Tromso Convoy has been machine-gunned by one German Seaplane. No damage. (CAMPBELL to A.C.O.S. see Donibristle 0530/11 to Adty.)

Co-operation with E-boats Aircraft from K.G.4 has carried out some form of operational training on 2 consecutive nights. This activity controlled by NEST and PILLAU may have consisted of co-operation with motor torpedo boats. (Air Min. D.S.329).

Enemy Intelligence

Norway 3 Cruisers and 4 destroyers in sight my position 63:26 N., 10:24 E. (aircraft of 254 Sqdn. 1004/11, 1035/11).

Cruisers reported at Trondheim are apparently 1 Battlecruiser, 2 cruisers unknown, and 4 destroyers. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1426/11).

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Norway (Contd.) 1 destroyer bearing 045° 5 miles course 000° my position 006. 59° N. 2° W. (NORTHERN SKY 1040/11 to Kirkwall) Probably FEARLESS (F.O.C.N.P., 1140/11).

E Boats Enemy surface craft reported attacking F.N.93 near Smiths Knoll. (C. in C. Nore 0121/11 to JACKAL). Possibly E boat (R.A.(S) to submarines on patrol 0235/11).

2345 4 or 5 unknown ships (probably E boats) off Scheldt, course S.W. (I.C. 0479/40). Aircraft at Trondheim 1000/11 saw SCHARNHORST, two cruisers unknown, and 4 destroyers, all appeared anchored in 63:27 N., 10:23 E. (Donibristle, 2025/11).

Western Approaches Since 0246/11 there has been much signalling from German units approx. latitude 042° N., mean of bearing 215° from Land's End. (C. in C. W.A., 1846/11)(see U-boat Campaign).

Am convinced enemy ships from Trondheim are using charted inter-island routes on east side of Fro Havet. Intend zig-zag course off Svee Fiord. (CLYDE, 0714/11).

Unknown German Unit or Units by D/F 215° from Lands End latitude about 42° N. (F.O.C.N.A. 1956/11 to CARNARVON CASTLE).

4 Destroyers Bearing 180° 8 miles course 255° position 63:40 N. 8:26 E. (Aircraft 1445/11).

Shipping

WASHINGTON American, left Lisbon 1700/10 for Galway with American citizens on board. Route given (D.C. 0057/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

M.T. Convoys In future M.T. Convoys will leave Methil at 1300, close escort subsequently escorting F.S. leaving Tyne at 0400 on following day. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1208/1.)
Essential that 2 escort vessels should be available for each convoy. 14 effective vessels necessary. Requested that an additional escort vessel may be lent. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1156/11 to Adty.)

War Diary

11.6.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous

E Boats — Summary of Methods of Attack by, and Counter-Attack against, E Boats attacking a convoy. (A.C.N.S. 2325/11 General Message).

Weather

0645 B.S.T.	Wind	Weather	Visibility
North Sea	Generally light, variable.	Extensive fog in central & northern part.	Moderate to poor, improving from West.
Horns Reef	Light and variable.	Fine to cloudy with some haze.	Mainly good.
Channel	S.W. or W. light to moderate.	Local fog in eastern area.	Moderate to poor in E. good in W.
Western Approaches	W. light to moderate.	Cloudy.	Good.
Coast of Norway	Light or moderate to variable.	Generally fine to cloudy.	Moderate to good.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

H.M.S. VANDYCK.	(Guardship) reported by ANA, Stockholm 1133/11 sunk off Andenes p.m. 10/6. No details except names of 5 missing and 6 seriously wounded. (D.C. 0424/12, ANA., Stockholm, 1133/11). VANDYCK empty. Last seen 070°44'N., 010° 00'E. at 0700 9th June. Failed to join convoy. DELIGHT sent to find her, has joined me having failed to do so and to communicate with her on 500 Kc/s. SHELLESMERE reports speaking VANDYCK in above position. (C.S.20., 2348/11).
HAUGHTON HALL.	Due at Capetown 9/6 not yet arrived (S.O.(I)., Capetown 1648/11).
ANTVERPIA Sank 19/5.	Belgian (4932 tons) believed sunk by enemy A/C in Boulogne Roads night 19/5 and not off Dunkirk 28/5 as at first reported. There was one survivor of her crew and 40 missing (D.S.).

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French positions at 1300/11, convoys and patrols. (D.C. 0756/11 to C. in C., W.A.).

ARGUS — To join convoy U.S.3 0900 G.M.T./14. Position.

STUDY — To sail for U.K. as soon as convenient opportunity for escort duty offers. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2031/11).

Mediterranean

British and Norwegian Shipping — 12 British ships, 2 Norwegian and 1 Dutch were in the Central Medit. area (between 3° E. and 25° E.) 11/6. 4 British and 2 Norwegian ships were due at Gibraltar 11/6 and 6 British and 4 Norwegian ships at Marseilles. 38 British 10 Norwegian ships were in Western Medit. ports and 52 British and 5 Norwegian and 2 Dutch ships were in Eastern Medit. ports including Malta. There were 3 Norwegian ships but no British in Italian ports on 11/6.

Mines — Secret source reports zone Trapan to Pantellaria mined. Coastal batteries from Pozzalo to Vittoria. Constant troop departures to Sardinia and Albania (S.O.I. Malta 1901/10 to Adty.)

Malta Raid — Malta attacked by unidentified aircraft at 0500/11 (H.Q. Med. 0515/11 to Air Min.) 1 plane shot down. (V.A. Malta 0740/11).

Enemy Intelligence — Air reconnaissance. Naples 0830/10. 4-6" cruisers, 4 destroyers AVIERE class, no s/ms. Cagliari 1430/8 4 T.Bs and 8 submarines. (D.D.I.C. 1016/11 to C. in C., Med.)

Suez Canal — Navigation lights in Suez Canal ordered to be extinguished and use of searchlights for transmitting forbidden. This involves suspending navigation during dark hours. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal Area 1714/10 to C. in C., Med.)

French Fleet — Disposition of French Fleet in Medit. (B.N.L.O. Marseau 1930/11 to Adty.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Fresh water to be contraband — Fresh water not carried for ships use is to be treated as contraband (D.E.W.D. 1940/11 to C. in C. Medit.).

Air Operations — Adty. 2010/10 to B.N.L.O. Toulon. Can carry out dusk dive bombing attacks but any casualties will prejudice success of operation Adriatic and Trieste. Propose awaiting arrival of Lieut. Goodman's stores. (Britnad, Hyeres, 1217/11).

British Contraband Control — All neutral vessels entering the Medit. are to be detained for Contraband Control pending decision by M.E.W. except as regards Spanish vessels which should for the present continue to be dealt with as in 892 ARFAR. M.E.W. Message 1200/7/6 is to be applied to all Spanish ships whose final destination is a Spanish port. Attention is directed to Adty. signal 1657/11/5. (D.E.W.D. 1414/11 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Italian Contraband Control — The Italians have established Contraband Control stations in the Straits of Messina and in order to induce Neutral shipping to pass that way have declared the sea between Sicily and Tunisia a mined area east of 10:00 E. south of 38:00 N. and west of a line drawn from the frontier between Libya and Tunisia to the intersection of 35:00 N. and 15:20 E. and from there to Syracuse in Sicily.

R.A.F. Raids — R.A.F. reconnaissances over Tobruk a.m. on 11th June report sighting 3 large transports, 4 or 5 twin funnelled ships, 10 to 15 smaller craft and some Flying Boats in Harbour. 3 Submarines Nationality doubtful 6 to 7 miles off Tobruk.

Successful air raid on (a) EL. ADEM. Aerodrome bombed direct hits on ground aircraft and petrol set ablaze; (b) Massawa and Gera, direct hits on Hangars and ground aircraft; (c) Asmara. Bombed reliability A.1 (S.O.I., Alexandria 1741/11).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Enemy Intelligence Imperial Airways' pilot reports sighting 2 large warships, and several destroyers, course E.N.E. 60 miles W.N.W. of Malta at 0916/10. 2 submarines on surface course easterly midway between Pantellania and Sicily at 0455/10. 1 submarine 20 miles S.W. of Sardinia at 1353/10. (D.D.I.C. 2108/11 to C. in C., Medit.)

Transport to Libya My 1953/10. Ships employed transporting troops from Italy to Libya (14). Many others also employed. Ports of departure Naples and Beri with occasionnal call at Palermo. Ports of arrival Tripoli and Benghasi, also Tobruk and Derna. War Office estimate troops in Libya approx. 240,000. (D.N.I., 2100/11).

East Indies

British Dispositions Following are present dispositions on East Indies Station: Red Sea Force. Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb and Cover to shipping in Red Sea. GRIMSBY attempting to round up Italian ships in North. COLOMBO, ANTENOR, CARAIBE. Italian Somaliland Coast as in my 1017/11. RANCHI rounding up Italian ship GERUSALEMME and TIMANO North of Durban latter now beached. H.M.S. CARTHAGE escorting TAKLIMA from Durban to Mombasa. DRAGON on passage Mombasa to Durban. CATHAY patrolling off Marmagoa. CERES in Ceylon area. KENT escorting convoy B.C. Persian Gulf Divn. H.M.I.S. LAWRENCE and H.M.I.S. INDUS Mouth of Shatt-el-Arab. FALMOUTH straits of Ormuz. H.M.I.S. HINDUSTAN at Bahrein. KIMBERLEY in dock at Bombay completing 13th June. (C. in C., E.I. 12252/11).

Estimated Disposition of Italian Warships In Massaua ers
XIEME TIGRE, PANTERA, FRANCESCO NULLO, NAZARIO SAURO, MANIN, CESARE BATTISTI, GIOVANNI G. ACERBI, VINCENZO G. ORSINI. Submarines GALILEO FERRARIS, GALILIO GALILEI, PERLA, EVANGELISTA TORRICELLI, ARCHIMEDE, MACALLE. GILVANI GUGLIEMOTTIO. (2 of these Submarines are believed to be at Assab). Part 2 follows. (C. in C., E.I. 08122/11).

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

My 0812/11 Part 2. CIMBRIAS Numbers 204 206 210 213 216. Sloop ERITREA EXTREK Patrol Vessel PORTO CORSINI Minesweeper and Layer OSTIA Minesweeper GUISEPPE BIGLIERI Oiler NIOBE. Recent unconfirmed reports indicate presence of Italian Warships in Italian Somaliland Ports but their presence is regarded as improbable. Para 2 concerning potential Armed Merchant Cruisers follows. (C. in C., E.I. 0816Z/11).

CARAIBE — French A.M.C. left Kilindini 0550/11 G.M.T. (N.O.I.C. Kilindini to C. in C., East Indies).

Shipping diverted — Until further orders any British or Norwegian ships bound for Suez or Red Sea ports with Government Cargo is to be sent to Bombay. (C. in C., E.I. 2307Z/10).

Cotton at Port Sudan — Your 1901Z/6 (cotton valued at 1½ million pounds warehoused at Port Sudan) Ministry of shipping prefers wait till Red Sea Convoys running. (M. 1710/11 to C. in C. E.I.)

Shipping — In view of general British merchant shipping Ships position 10th June cancel my 2306 10th June (II) British and Norwegian Merchant Ships now at or subsequently arriving at Aden are to proceed as follows (III) Chartered Oilers and other ships with supplies for services in Eastern Mediterranean to Bombay to await convoy (IV). Any other ships originally northbound but now recalled are to proceed to Mombasa and the Cape (V) Ships originally intxn Southbound in Red Sea and ordered to continue on their voyages are to be cleared as soon as possible for their destinations. (C. in C. E. Indies 1101Z/11 to N.O.I.C. Aden)

Italian S/M's. — There is reason to believe that there may be as many as eight Italian submarines in the Red Sea or off the coast of Italian Somaliland:- GALILEO FERRARIS, GALILEO GALILEI, PERLA, EVANGELISTA, TORRICELLI, ARCHIMEDE, MACALLE and GILVANI, GUGLIEMOTTIO.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Cont)

Italian S/M's. (Cont) — Your 06472/11 Report of Italian s/m ARCHIMEDE originated from reliable Army source. No indications as to vicinity of operations but possibly local exercises from Massawa. (D.D.I.C. 210(/11 to C. in C. E.I)

Shipping. — All Neutral ships entering or leaving Red Sea to be diverted and detained at Aden pending decision by M.E.W. except those East-bound shoe first port of call is British or Allied. (D.E.W.D. 1415/11 to C.C.S.O. Aden)

Protection of A.P.C Oil installation (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1610/11 to Adty.)

Italian Merchant Ships. — PENSILVANIA, CARSO, INTEGRITAS, ADRIA and SAVOIA may be making for Somaliland ports. Orders to intercept, to COLOMBO, ANTENOR and CARAIBE (C. in C. E.I. 10172/11)

America and West Indies.

Curacao. — Dutch Curacao not yet at war with Italy and are doubtful about holding Italian ships there. Request information of Dutch decision. (C. in C., A.W.I., 0933/11)

Suggestion to put sugar in petrol abandoned in France (C. in C. A.W.I. 1134/11)

BRENNERO — Italian shown as Naval auxiliary vessel in OU No. 6118 (3) Now in New York. Suggest 24 hours notice to sail or be interned. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1756/ (11)

Australia.

ROMOLO — Italian ship resembling, reported 0100Z/10 in 11° 45' S. 163° 0' E. course 20° speed 12 knots. MANOORA searching. (A.C.N.B. 0837Z/11)

War Diary. 11.6.40.
Tuesday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Between 3/9/39 and 10/6/40 Germany sank 8 Italian merchant ships of a total tonnage of 37,619 tons.

Seized or scuttled on outbreak of war.	Name.	Tonnage.	Ports.	Remarks.
	ERICA	4704	Liverpool	Seized.
	MINCIO	5404	"	"
	GABBIANO	6584	"	"
	ANGELINA LAURO	5787	"	"
	ANDREA	5152	Newcastle	"
	ELIOS	5202	"	"
	PELLICE	5360	Sailed Tyne June 9.	Captured.
	MUGNONE	5213	Sailed from Tyne June 10	Captured & taken to Methil.
	PAMIA	6245	" "	"
	BARBANA G.	6561	" "	"
	MOSCARDIN	4419	" "	"
	MARZOCCO	5106	Sailed from Sunderland 0615/9 for Falmouth. Hartlepool.	Intercepted 2359/10 & scuttled herself but went ashore.
	GIOACHINA LAURO	5345	Hartlepool.	Seized.
Seized 11/6.	SISTIANA	5827	Cape Town.	(SNO.Simonstown 0101/I
	REMO	9780	Freemantle	But Spanish
	POLLENZO	6470	Gibraltar (FOCNA 0634/11).	authorities claim she is in territorial waters. (IC0480/40)
	VERBANIA	6640	Bitter Lakes.	Detained with 800 tons of ammunition on board.(SB. NO Suez, 1029/11).
	CALABRIA	9515	Calcutta	Captured.
	CALITEA	4013	Malta. (M.1913/11)	Captured allowed to proceed with Italian evacues, mostly old men,women & children.
	RODI	3220	Malta(do).	Captured.
	VILLAR PEROSA	6255	Tyne.	
	CAPO NOLI	3921	St.Lawrence river.	
	LIBANO CELLINA	1592) 6080)	Gibraltar. (FOCNA 0634/11).	Scuttled, but likely to be refloated & ready for sea shortly

War Diary.

11.6.40.
Tuesday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Scuttled etc.	Name.	Tonnage.	Ports.	Remarks.
	LAVORO	8000)	Gibraltar	Claimed by Spanish as being beached after scuttling off Spanish territory at N. end of Bay. Spanish crews on board.
	OLTERRA	4995)	(do)	
	PAGAO	6101	Gibraltar	Sunk.
	TIMAVO	7549	Gibraltar 27°49'S., 32°36'E.	Ahhore, may be salved.
	(GERUSALEMME	8052	Lourenco Marques	Arrived 11/6. Erroneously reported ashore.).
	ESQUILINO	8657	Aden	Captured.
	MONTE PIANA	5890	Aden	Beached.

Foreign Stations.

ESQUILION
MONTE PIANA

At Aden. Both abandoned and began scuttling at 2200. Naval armed guard prevented scuttling of ESQUILINO and MONTE PIANA successfully beached. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0540Z/11 to C-in-C., East Indies).

ALABAMA

Curacao reports Italian tanker 30 miles from Marazaibo outward bound. 5000 tons. (S.O.I., Kingston, Jamaica 1435/11 to Adty). A French auxailairy cruiser tried to board her, whereupon she tried to scuttle herself and was beached. There is reason to believe that Italian M/V's intend to make for Northern Norwegian or Irish ports. (D.N.I.0030/11).
Appears Italian M/V's have orders to scuttle to avoid capture. Action at (A),(B), and (C)., in Adty. telegram 834a of 23 November, 1939 to apply to Italian M/V's as well as to German. (A.C.N.S. 1740/11).
My 2252/10 GMT. Ships from Tyne have been captured. (C-in-C., W.A., 0941/11).

War Diary.

11.6.40.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING. (Contd.).

S/M's Reported.

Mediterranean.

a.m./11	3 S/M's reported by A/C 32.11 N., 24.00 E., 7 miles.
a.m/.11	DIAMOND reported S/M 35°55'N., 14°32'E, off entrance to Grand Harbour, Malta.
p.m/11	38°10'N, 0°20'W, off Alicante. Reported by French GOUVERNEUR GENERAL LEPINE.

War Diary. 11.6.40.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships Attacked.

BARON ELPHINSTONE escaped. (4635 tons) was attacked by torpedo 0052/11 off Cross Sand, coast of Norfolk, and by A/C at about 0215/11 (D.C.N.S. 281). Ship undamaged.

ST. RONAIG British, 509 tons, from Channel Islands. Wrecked, probably by mine, 1 mile N.W. of W. Breakwater Light, Newhaven. Loud explosion at 1100/11, when the ship was in a dense fog. Master and 3 of crew landed. 4 others killed. (N.O.I.C., Newhaven, 1723/11).

ATHEL PRINCE Tanker, 8782 tons, which left London on June 7 for Cienfuegos, reported to have been torpedoed at 2300/11 in 43.24'N., 15.30 W., but was torpedoed shortly after leaving it. (Base ship, Scapa, 1016/12).

ZINOVAI Sunk. Greek (2975 tons) sunk by mine off Pantellaria.

MOUNT HYMETTUS Greek (5820 tons) reported torpedoed 150 miles West of Finisterre (D.C.N.S. 264).

S/M'S Reported.

0930 36°53'N, 3°6'E (off Algiers) French report.

1206 By A/C 60°30'N., 00°30'E.

1215 By A/C 60°40'N., 00°18'E. S/M dived immediately (C-in-C., Rosyth 14444/11).

? 42°N, 15°W. approx. by bearings from Casablanca (D.N.I. 2318/11.

0500 Reported by liner WASHINGTON, 42.12 N., 12.50 W., about 190 miles W. from Vigo.

1800 Coast watching report of S/M in Rosses Bay 55°1'N, 8°28'W., B.2 (IC.0479/40).

2300 43.24'N., 15.20'W., about 180 miles W. from Cape Finisterre.

British ATHEL PRINCE attacked.

1118 By A/C on surface at 1215/11 72'N.E. of Lerwick

0246 Since 0246/11 much refualling from German units, approx. latitude 042°N., mean of bearing 215°from Land's End. (C-in-C., W.A., 1846/11). My 1846/11. Further reports indicate U-boatiin position 42°00'N, 13°00'W. (ACWA, 0014/12).

War Diary

12.6.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Operation Cycle

Attempts to evacuate from St. Valery during the night 11/12 failed due to much fog off the coast. At 0100 SALADIN reported that St, Valery town was full of enemy and the beach was under heavy shell fire. At 0330 C. in C., Portsmouth decided that the last chance of saving the 51st Division would be during the few hours after dawn today, and then only if the maximum fighter protection could be given. This was arranged from 0515 to 0815 by fighters over St. Valery itself, and our Coastal Command were to provide protection for the ships between St. Valery and Cherbourg.

SALADIN, HARVESTER and other ships were shelled when attempting to approach. At 1815 all ships were ordered to retire and a general evacuation was abandoned. The whole of the 51st Division could not be embarked and some 6000 were taken prisoners.

At Havre, 5000 British and 7000 French troops remain. It is intended to evacuate them during the night.

Fighter Command sent patrols of 2 squadrons at a time to give air protection over the Havre area.

Am M.T.B. working in conjunction with an aircraft removed British troops from a wreck just off Dunkirk.

Reconnaissance of Bergen

A dawn reconnaissance was flown over the Bergen area, preparatory to a large scale attack on a large number of M.V's there.

Attack on Enemy E. Boats

At 2345/11 a bomber command aircraft reported 5 unknown ships off the Scheldt, steering S.W. at 0115/12. 4 ships were reported 15 miles N.W. of Ostend, steering West at 20 knots. Their reports agreed with a previous intelligence report which stated that a flotilla of enemy M.T.B's would make for Boulogne during the night. 2 Ansons left at 0220/12 to try to intercept and attack these ships.

/Three....

War Diary

12.6.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Attack on Enemy E. Boats, Contd.

Three air attacks were made between 1200 and 2400 on 5 M.T.B's seen in Boulogne. The first attack produced no result on M.T.B's, though the jetties and railway were damaged and concentrations of road transports were dispersed and machine gunned. In the second attack one M.T.B. was hit and two damaged. The third attack was carried outon Boulogne, as no M.T.B's were seen in the harbour.

A patrol by 4 of our M.T.B's was carried out from dark until just before dawn to intercept and destroy any M.T.B's remaining in this area.

Aircraft Mining

Enemy minelaying is suspected to have occurred between the North Foreland and Swanage during the night 11/12. Dover is closed and Portland is only open to degaussed ships. After 1800/12 aircraft were plotted from Maplethorpe to Isle of Wight, probably engaged in minelaying. (Air. Min. D.S. 329)

Mines were found off Alexandria. R.A.F. laid 4 magnetic mines during the night 11/12 off the German coast.

Narvik Convoy

Group 2 Narvik Personnel Convoy arrived at the Clyde tonight.

Expedition Preparing

The reports of troop concentrations in Bergen, together with the disposition of merchant vessels in the Bergen and Trondheim areas and the continual pressure of German units at Trondheim appear to confirm that a seaborne expedition is in process of being prepared in those areas. There is, however, nothing to indicate the imminence of its departure. (C. in C., Report 13)

Italian Hostilities
Air Raid on Tobruk

R.A.F. in the Mediterranean carried out a successful raid on Tobruk (Borders of Libya and Egypt) a.m./12. One warship believed to be the Italian cruiser SAN GIORGIO was set on fire and had to be beached; another ship and the Naval jetty were shown by photograph to be on fire. Two Italian aircraft are believed to have been shot down.

The Italians announced 13/6 the loss of one mine sweeper.

War Diary

12.6.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Italian Hostilities. Contd.

Italian Submarines Attacked

2 Italian submarines were attacked, one east of the Straits of Gibraltar and one off Malta, both perhaps with success.

Casualties

CALYPSO was sunk 0200, south of Crete, probably by torpedo. 1 Officer and 38 ratings are missing.

The Norwegian ORKANGER was torpedoed and sunk 2300 off the North Coast of Egypt.

The ZINOVIA (Greek) was mined and sunk near Pantillamia.

War Diary

12.6.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Methil — Port scheme (N.O.I/C Methil 0956/12)

Small ports — A.C.N.S. (H) 2230/12 see Operations Volume.

Movements

CARDIFF — Is to be placed under orders of C. in C., Portsmouth (D.O.D. (H) 1206/12 to V.A.Dover) (For attack of minelaying aircraft)

C.S. 18. — Will not be ordered South before 16/6 if situation remains unchanged. (C. in C., Nore, 1650/12)

Operation- Cycle

St. Valery — St. Valery appears full of enemy and beach under heavy fire. Am now moving to Veules. Where are you. (SALADIN 0105/12 to CODRINGTON)

Codes destroyed. When may ships be expected. Situation most critical at Le Veules St Valery. (Army N.L.O. 0115/12 to Royal Navy)

G.H.Q. — G.H.Q. proceeds to France in three parties by road on 12,13,15 and 17 June. (W.O. to H.Q.L of C. 0115/12)

E Boats — Reliable information that Flotilla of E-Boats being transferred Boulogne to-night 11/12. Do not close coast to intercept. (V.A.Dover 0143/12 to VESPER)

Boats required — Urgently require more pulling boats at Veules (S.N.A. Small craft 0505/12 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Boats arrived too late — Nets have waited all night on beach. Boats arrived too late to allow withdrawal with batteries and M.G. posts neutralised. Request ships bombard cliff West of harbour and M.G. ports East of Harbour. Faint possibility of withdrawing on this being done, but position very critical. (Nets 12th 0742/12 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

HOME COMMANDS

Operation Cycle, Contd.

Air Support Required

Unless Batteries heavily bombarded from air it will be impossible to evacuate St. Valery. (S.N.O. Afloat 0815/12 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Very strong air support urgently required at Veules (CODRINGTON 0835/12 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Havre

Situation at 0930/12 intend to complete evacuation during dark hours tonight. 5000 British Troops still here. Five British Transports available alongside. French have evacuated about 12,000 and have 7,000 more. French do not expect any more arrivals from 6th Army Corps. All lighting and water in Havre cut off since 1200/11 (S.N.O. Havre 1025/12 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Fighter Protection

No fighter protection available till about three hours before dark. Evacuation without Fighter protection is not to be attempted in weather in which enemy bombers can operate. (Adty. 1030/12 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Order to Cease Fire Not Obeyed.

Have been ordered to cease fire at 0800 by Commandant 9th Corps. Have informed him cannot comply till sure no possibility of evacuating any of my Division by boat later. Am trying clear enemy M.G's from cliffs overlooking harbour. French elements ceased fire and are hanging out white flags. (51st Divn. 1030/12 to W.O.)

Am withdrawing forces now to the Northward. (S.N.O. Afloat 1040/12 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Twelve Aircraft Havre. (VEGA 1059/12)

Fog Held Up Ships

Regret fog prevented Naval force arriving earlier off St. Valery last night. S.N.O. Afloat will make every effort get you off and additional ships being sent to assist tonight. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1108/12 to Genl. Fortune 51st Divn)

12.....

War Diary

12.6.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operation-Cycle Contd.

12 Blenheim bombers escorted by Fighters will carry out low dive bombing attacks on targets at St. Valery between 1315 and 1345. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1109/12 to S.N.O. Afloat)

Weather Report

Weather report, wind West force one, visibility 4 miles, overcast. (S.N.O. Afloat 1120/12 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

CARDIFF

Raise steam full speed. You are to bombard French coast near St. Valery. C. in C., Portsmouth 1121/12 to CARDIFF)

Situation 1100

Situation at 1100. French advance posts attacked by enemy forces including A.F.V.S. early today near Lillebonne. Line round Havre through Montivilliers held by British-French who will be withdrawn at 2200. Inner line of French only will be held till 0200/13. (S.N.O. Havre 1125/12 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

CARDIFF sailed from Dover 1235 (V.A.Dover 1236/12 to Admty.)

Vehicles and Guns Abandoned

All Transports from Havre being sailed to Cherbourg but units not necessarily formed and some hundreds of transport vehicles and a few guns are being abandoned. (S.N.O. Havre 1315/12 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

R.E. Brigade

Request equipment of R.M. Brigade may begin (W.O. 1326/12 to Adty.)

CARDIFF

Expects arrive St. Valery Area to bombard at 1615 today. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1404/12 to S.N.O. (A) HARVESTER)

Do not close coast to bombard. Keep ready to close St. Valery if required (C. in C., Portsmouth 1446/12 to CARDIFF)

Appears no fighting in St. Valery. Cliff battery opened on HARVESTER at 9000 yards. No hits. (S.N.O. (A) 1536/12 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

War Diary

12.6.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operation Cycle, Contd.

Cruiser required to Bombard

At present have only four ships for bombardment a cruiser if possible should be sent and two more destroyers two more transports will be needed and also more boats for beach work and four drifters request HAMPTON and beach parties may be sent to join me, have not released the empty personnel ships if possible request numbers remaining in St. Valery 1. (S.N.O. (A) Havre 1152/12)

Veules Beach Untenable

Field guns in inaccessible position for bombardment from sea have opened fire on beach at Veules and made it untenable those British troops on beach have been brought off. No others were seen making their way along cliff. Guns also have been mounted on high West Cliff of St. Valery which opened on Veules beach as well as on cliffs to East of St. Valery. Guns on cliff to West of St. Valery were bombarded by HARVESTER during evacuation at Veules. Some officers stated there was none left in St. Valery but unable to confirm this. Am withdrawing force now to the Northward and waiting further orders. (S.N.O. 1211/12)

Fighters needed Tonight

During evacuation of French and British Forces from Havre tonight Wednesday fighter protection is urgently needed particularly dusk and dawn and thereafter during passage to Cherbourg. (S.N.O. Havre 1643/12)

My 1509 for Veules ~~near~~ read St. Valery. (HARVESTER 1541/12)

Keep out of enemy gun range until further orders. (C. in C., Portsmouth. 1650/12 to S.N.O.A)

Bulk of 51st Divn. cannot be embarked

It is now certain that bulk of 51st Divn. cannot be embarked. Begin withdrawal of ships to England except any necessary to pick up stragglers on beaches after dark. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1621/12 to S.N.O.A. Havre)

Intend.....

War Diary

12.6.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operation Cycle, Contd.

Intend establish M.T.B. Patrol off Boulogne during dark tonight to intercept any E-Boats interfering with St. Valery embarkation (V.A.Dover 2017/12 to A.C.C. 16 Group)

Force returning to harbour (S.N.O. (A) 2054/12 to WELLINGTON)

Admty. Message 2055/11 Movement of Troops from Havre, etc., was not passed to 51st Division. Not possible get in touch and later they had destroyed all codes and cyphers (N.T.O. from War Registry. 12/6)
Your 2000
We only wish to ensure that no Stragglers who could be brought off were left behind. Act as you think fit. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2216/12 to S.N.O.A.)

Coast of France

Rescue of troops from wreck off Dunkirk

M.T.B. and aircraft left at 2132/12, having embarked all troops aboard, approximately 8. (Chatham 2340/12)
Position of wreck 51.8' N 2.10' received at 2120 (Chatham 2340/12 to H.Q.I.C.)

War Diary

12.6.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations- Norway

Attack on enemy units at Trondheim asking whether Swordfish to be used as well as Skuas for attacking enemy ships at Trondheim. (Admty. 1047/12) Reply No. (C. in C., H.F. 1151/12)

Your 2215/11 Cancel my 1047/12. If you consider conditions sufficiently favourable it is at your discretion to make attack with torpedo bombers as well as Skuas. (V.C.N.S. 1213/12 to C. in C., H.F.)

Your 0936/12. Am attacking from position 65.N 4.40'E at 0200/13. Presume this is too far for fighter escort. Would like bombers to attack Vaernes aerodrome at 0200/13 but not earlier (C. in C., H.F. 1337/12) Reported to H.Q.C.C. by ALO 1702/12)

VETERAN take MASHONA, AMAZON, CAMPBELL under orders and R/V with C. in C., H.F. 63.N 4.W at 1300/13 (R.A. (D) H.F. 1455/12)

Your 1337. 4 Beauforts ordered to attack Vaernes Aerodrome 0200/13. Your position too far for fighter escort but 6 Blenheims will be near Trondheim 0200/13 to operate as protective escort to Skuas. Blenheims can only remain ½ hour (C. in C., Rosyth 1616/12)

Attack on enemy units at Trondheim. Intelligence for Skuas making attack (D.N.A.D. 1656/12)

Weather permitting C C aircraft will be bombing Bergen anchorage and shore targets at 2359/12 and 0300/13 (C. in C. Rosyth 1802/12 to C. in C. H.F.)

War Diary

12.6.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Forces

Communications

Your 1153/12 received at 1640/12 5 hours delay in transmission might be serious. Suggest that urgent messages for me should be routed W/T station at Thorshavn via Wick Radio in addition to L/T (line telegraphy) method. Further it is suggested that warning signals be sent in enemy report phrases from Naval Cypher. (N.O.I/C Faeroes 2139/12)

It is hoped to be able to give you warning of enemy preparations for invasion. Destination of enemy forces if directed against Iceland or Faroes, whether sea-borne or air-borne will not be apparent until they have passed Shetlands. (D.N.I. 1153/12)

War Diary

12.6.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

AIR

British Air Activity

Attack on ships at Trondheim

Your 22/5/11. 18 Group are willing to co-operate with Blenheim fighter escort and synchronised bombing attack at anything you desire to divert attention from the Skuas. (C. in C., Rosyth 0936/12 to C. in C., H.F.)

Attack on E-Boats at Boulogne

See Situation Report. Signals (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1355/13, V.A. Dover 0143/12 to VESPER see operation "Cycle"

Markings of Aircraft

Asking that Admty. 1564/8 be cancelled. No definite proof at present that enemy using captured Allied aircraft or have adopted use of using Allied markings on his own aircraft (Air Ministry 1900/12)

Enemy Air Activity

Cherbourg

Bombing raids at intervals 0315 to 0530 including possible mine dropping. Mine dropping raid at 0015. Wharves and quays intact. Port open to treated ships. Roadstead very congested at time of raid due to arrival of 2 convoys overnight. This practice recently introduced considered very dangerous to shipping. Dawn arrivals much preferable. Transport traffic heavy but unhindered. (B.N.L.O. Marseau 1022/12)

VEGA

Bombed about 1645 off Havre. Understood no damage caused. (I.C. 0480/40)

HARVESTER

Bombed in mid-channel between Fecamp and Isle of Wight 1745. Understood no damage caused. (I.C. 0480/40)

Havre

Enemy aircraft, as many as 12 and 15 at a time were reported throughout the day by H.M. ships operating off Fecamp and Le Havre.

BRUGES
(? 11/6)

British (2949 tons) Bombed at Le Havre on fire, Beached.

ARIADNE
PRINS OLAV

It is reported that the Norwegian ships ARIADNE, 2029 tons, and PRINS OLAV, 2147 tons, have been attacked and sunk by German aircraft, while on their way from a Norwegian port to Thorshavn in the Faroe Islands with a large number of passengers on board.

War Diary

12.6.1940.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

1 magnetic mine exploded off North Foreland.

4 mines found in Humber area. (D.C.N.S. 263)

Minelaying Aircraft

are easily driven away by any form of A/A fire. ALRESFORD shot down an aircraft when she was anchored in St. Helen's Roads. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1503/12) cf. CARDIFF- Movements.

Enemy Intelligence

E-Boats

0245, 5 miles off South Foreland Reported by 2 Ansons (Chatham 0255/12)
0838
Unknown enemy Unit at 58.40'N 4. 50'E. By D/F Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 0905/12)

Aalborg

German destroyers and minesweepers are reported to be regularly using quays and moorings west of bridges at Aalborg. B two repeat B two. (N.A. Stockholm 1810/12)

4 Destroyers

At Trondheim. (A/C 1425/12)

Reconnaissance of Trondheim at 1430/11 reports one Battle Cruiser, two Cruisers, and four Destroyers at anchor off town. Destroyers not now alongside Battle Cruiser. Four Destroyers on patrol 63. 37'N. 9.30'E. (C. in C., Rosyth 1740/12 to C. in C., H.F., 1516/12 to submarines on patrol)

Shipping

War Office Convoys

Admty. 1853/6 from 12/6 change of ports of landing. Additional sailing. (D.O.D. (H) 1820/12)

U.S. S.

Movements (C. in C., W.A. 1112/12, 1552/12, 1718/12)

OA & FN Convoys

Re time of R/V off St. Catherines (C. in C., W.A. 1826/12)

War Diary

12.6.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping, Contd.

FS & FN Convoys Protection

In order to augment the anti "E" boat protection of F.S. and F.N. convoys during dark hours, it is requested that you will give consideration to the following measures.

2. KINGFISHER Class Corvettes and M.A/S.Bs to be used as close escort to F.S. and F.N. convoys during dark hours. M.T.B's to be disposed to seaward to give additional protection, and be in a position to counter-attack in the event of "E" boats attacking convoys.

3. A listening patrol of A/S trawlers to be established to seaward on that portion of the convoy route traversed by convoys during dark hours. This patrol to be approximately along the inner limit of the East Coast declared area.

4. In order to prevent the existence of these patrols becoming known to the enemy, and to afford air protection to the trawlers, it is proposed that they should be sailed from Lowestoft and Grimsby ahead of F.S. and F.N. convoys respectively, to take up their patrols, vacating these patrols at dawn and returning to Lowestoft and Grimsby in the wake of F.S. and F.N. convoys.

5. Any available anti "E" boat net to be laid in a position eastwards of Ower Bank in a line approximately 150°, being watched by A/S trawlers on listening patrol. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1918/12 C. in C., Nore)

Contraband Control

Customs have instructed their officers today that clearance and bunkers are to be refused to all ships bound for Italian territory, Mediterranean, or Black Sea ports, except (a) non-Italian ships bound for France or French N. Africa. (b) Neutral ships for Spanish Mediterranean ports (c) coal carrying ships chartered by French Mission. Ships refused clearance to be detained. (Hd. of M. 2054/12 to C. in C's)

War Diary

12.6.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shiping Contd.

O.G. and O.G.F. Convoys

In future no ships for North American ports are to be sailed in O.G. or O.G.F. Convoys. Ships bound for Oporto and Lisbon should be detached from these convoys as at present. Other ships are not to be detached until south of latitude 40° N. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1707/12)

Miscellaneous

Cables

Dieppe/Eastbourne should also be cut.

Calais/Fano cables are not to be cut at present. (D.S.D. 1549/12 to V.A. Dover)

War signal stations C.G. stations are to report warships and merchant ships without waiting to identify them. An amplifying report is alway to be made subsequently stating whether ships are friendly or otherwise as soon as this can be established. (D.S.D. 1436/12)

WEATHER

0500 B.S.T.	WIND	VISIBILITY	OUTLOOK
North Sea	S. S.W. Moderate or light	Moderate. Fog patches in East and South Good in North.	Visibility deteriorating in North.
Channel	W. or S.W. Light or Moderate	Moderate with fog patches in East. Good in West.	Visibility improving in East
W. Approaches	W.S.W. Moderate	Moderate or Good	Wind veering W.N.W. Visibility improving
Horns Reef	S. Light	Poor Fog patches	Similar
Dutch Coast	S.W.Light	Moderate. Fog patches	Similar
Coast of Norway	Moderate S.Light.	Moderate in South. Fog patches. Good in North.	Similar

War Diary. CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. 12.6.40. Wednesday

EMPIRE COMMERCE. (Mined 8/6) Asking for two more tugs to assist her through channels at North East Spit Buoy (North Portland Radio No.1.0.0. Recd.0518/12). She had been beached in Thames Estuary 2235/8; floated off the bank on which she had been grounded and became adrift.

GASCONY. Sabotage suspected. British. Two explosions tonight, first at 1945 while loading cases tinned meat number three hold, second in number four hold after all work stopped. One killed and five wounded by first explosion, and ship must be drydocked.
(N.C.S.O. Buenos Ayres 2359/12 to C. in C.S.A.)

WESTMOOR. Broken down 0°N27°56' W.1546 G.M.T./12, PRETORIA CASTLE to take in tow. Arrangements to prevent breaking W/T silence (C. in C.S.A. 1855/12, 11819/12).

PRIMUS ARIADNE Bound for Thorshavn, sunk by bombing, ARROW has 80 survivors including 9 women (NEWCASTLE 1401/12)

WALKER. Has 2 leaking oil fuel tanks defection boiler room fuses, and other urgent defects caused by near misses (NEWCASTLE 1401/12).

OREGON. Overdue. British (6008 tons) left Freetown 14/5 for Plymouth and Tees with 8200 tons iron ore. No further news since she signalled 2000/10 from position off Canaries that she had serious boiler trouble and was in need of food and water. (D.S.).

NEWTON PINE British (4212 tons) due Buenos Aires 4/6 from Tyne 1/5. Not arrived.

RICHARD DE LARRINAGA. British (5358 tons) left Freetown 18/5 due Buenos Aires 4/6. Not arrived.

THALATTA. Due Capetown 7/6 not arrived (S.O.1.) Capetown 1038/12.)

12.6.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Escort of Shipping. Have you received any intimation from French Authorities as to their intentions with regard to escort of shipping (A) between Gibraltar and southern French ports (B). between Gibraltar and North African ports. It is not intended that 18th Flotilla should be used to escort this shipping. (D.T.D. 0108/12 to FOC., NA).

French Positions. 1200/13. (D.C. 2318/12).
1200/12. (D.C. 0425/12).

South Atlantic.

Cable cut. Press reports Italian cable cut near Azores. (BNA, Buenos Aires 1900/12).

GASCONY — British. 2 explosions first while loading second in hold after work stopped. 1k, 5w, damage to ship will necessitate dry docking. (NCSO Buenos Aires, 2359/12).

French Colonial troops. Following ships have been ordered to embark French Colonial troops numbers as stated at Kotou and Port Bonet June and July. (D.T.D. 1846/12).

PALESTINIAN PRINCE, DAFILA. — F.O.C.N.A. 1630/11. These ships, with reserves for Eastern Mediterranean and East Indies, are to call at Simonstown, to embark from hulk CORSICA 4-in. ammunition in proportions ordered by C-in-C., Med. (D.T.S.D., to C-in-C., S.A., 1920/12).

Mediterranean.

Air.

R.A.F. report successful air raid carried out on Tobruk A.M./12. One large warship with twin large calibre gun turrets, believed to be old Italian Cruiser SANGIORGIO, 9000 tons, S/M depot and repair ship, set on fire and beached near oil tank. Another ship alongside jetty shown in photograph to be on fire. Naval Jetty ablaze. 2 Italian aircraft believed to have been shot down. (S.O.(I), Alexandria, 1731/12).

Report of raid on Malta last night (C-in-C., Malta 2335/12).

Your 1131/12 French Government have issued instructions today that no bombing is to be (? made) from this area for the present. Squadron is ready but must await French consent. Request agreement of French Government be obtained. (BNLO. Toulon Rec. 1713/12).

FOREIGN STATIONS (Contd.).

Mediterranean.

Mining.

Sicilian Channel.

Mined and ships diverted via Messina (Capt. O.S. St. Angelo., 1126/12).
Searched Channel in force at Alexandria from 0001/12. (Malta W/T to Med. Fleet 0001/12.
Mines in position 300°R.E.T. 17 miles. (Malta 2055/12 to Med. Fleet).

Mines found off Alexandria (D.C.NS 263).

Enemy Intelligence.

3 cruisers,
6 destroyers.

At 1200 ORPHEUS, reported sighting 3 ZARA class cruisers and 6 destroyers steering N.N.W. in positon 70 miles N.E. of Malta. (D.C.NS.263).

Evacuation of Italians from Malta.

Govenor considers it essential in interest of security. Neutral ship should be sent. (F.O.I/C Malta 1409/12).

Several Italian Units, possibly 2nd Squadron, were about 50 miles West of Cephalonia at noon on 12th June, (COIC. 0100/13 to C-in-C., Med).

Dispositions.

Considerable number enemy submarines have been identified as being at sea but positions not known. 3 or 4 torpedo boats from Tripoli (Africa) believed to have crossed Gulf of Sidra North eastward and are now believed to be in vicinity Marsa Torbuk. Sicilian Channel mined and ships diverted via Messina. (Capt. OS. St. Angelo 1126/12).
Air reconnaissance 11/6 Leghorn:- No warships present. La Maddalena:- No change since 6th June. Cagliari:- Four T.Bs. and five submarines. (D.D.I.C. 1200/12).

Evacuees.

Release of one Italian steamer suggested, to take 550 evacuees (V.A. Malta, 1247/12, re. Adty. 1913/11).

East Indies.

Territorial Troops convoy.

SAN ANTONIO

To disembark in India. Date. Ships, etc. (D. of ST. 1919/12).

Cannot be held for C.C. undesirable that cargoes of this nature should fall into Italian hands. Ship and any others with similar cargoes bound for Allied ports may be released but should be routed so as to ~~xx~~ avoid Eritrean coast by as wide a margin as possible (ACNS, 2254/12 to CCSO, Aden).

War Diary.

12.6.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies.

Red Sea. Convoys.

It is anticipated that the minimum size of Red Sea Convoys at 21 days interval will be twenty-two ships constituted as follows:-
(a) Service Stores from U.K. 9 ships.
from India 3 ships.
from Australia 1 ship.

(b) Tankers 3 ships.
(c) Colliers and occasional ships with other essential cargoes 6 ships.
Reference your 1051/11 to Admiralty only. My 1603/2/5 does not now apply. (D.T.D. 0107/12 to C-in-C., E.I.).

Australia.

WESTRALIA)
PARRAMATTA)
YARRA)

Commonwealth Govt. considering placing them at disposal of Adty. (A.C.N.S.B. 0337Z/12).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

German ships ANKARA, 4768, MARITZA 2910, INGO 3950, and LUVSEE 2373 have carried 35,000 tons of Bauxite from Dubrounik to Triest since 28 March. Fresh stocks now at Dubrovnik and likely to increase. S/M or Air attack on these ships would have profound local effect. (N.A. Belgrade 2216/12 to C-in-C., Med.).

BARKENFELS — 7569 tons is reported to have been raised at Bergen. She had not previously been identified as having been sunk (D.S.).

Italian Merchant Ships.

ROMOLO
scuttled. — Intercepted at 0295 Z today at 8°20'S., 163°45'E. Abandoned and set on fire. (Australian TNB 0651/12 to Adty). MANDORA rescued 130 passengers and crew all unhurt (ACNB 1253Z/12 to Adty).

BRENNERO — Oiler. At New York, probably being given 24 hours notice to sail or be interned. (C-in-C., NAWI. 0932/12 to CARADOC).

ALABAMA
Beached. — Boarded by French auxiliary cruiser BARFLEUR coast Maracaibo. Beached. (S.O.(I)., Kingston, Jamaica 1044/12 to Adty.).

CONTE ROSSO — With British Embassy Staff. Leaves Ancona to-day for Lisbon. (D.O.D.F. 1203/12 to C-in-C., Med).

GIULIO — Trawler.) Captured in Suez Canal.
CASO — Motor fishing boat.) (D.S.).
Captured

DENTICE
scuttled. — 5281 tons, homeward bound from Mexico, set on fire, abandoned.

In Neutral Ports. — Full list up to to-day see I.C.0480.

GERUSALEMME — RANCHI reports her beached in Portuguese territory 12 miles N. of Ovo Point. (C-in-C., E.I. 1651Z/11).

VERBANIA — At Bizerta/Lake. Cargo of ammunition to be loaded and examined. (SBNO, Suez-2041/12 to Adty).

CATHERINE GEROLINICH
Seized. — 8000 at Dublin discharging phosphates. Ordered to remain. (N.A. Dublin 1420/12 to D.N.I).

War Diary. 12.6.40.
Wednesday.

U-Boat campaign and Mining.

Home Commands and North Atlantic.

Ships Attacked.

BARON SALTOUN sunk. (3404 tons) was mined and sunk in Cherbourg harbour during the night 11/12, by magnetic mine. One man lost. (BNLD, Marcean,1022/12).

YVONNE — Belgian, 668 tons, mined and sunk, off Goodwin Knoll. 0830 in searched channel. (IC.0480/40).

EARLS PARK — British. 5250 tons. Torpedoed 41°30'N., 11°33'W., at 110/12. Not in convoy. (Plymouth W/T., 1139/12. Lands End Radio, 1131/12). Same position as ATHEL PRINCE 2300/11).

PRINCESS JULIANA Sunk. — British, 198 tons, mined and sunk off Harwich, at 1200/12. Port is open.

WILLOWBANK — British, 5041 tons. Torpedoed, sinking slowly. 44.16 N., 13.54 W., at 2045/12. Was in Convoy SL.34 (CARNARVON CASTLE, 2115/12 to A.C.W.A.).

SISAPON Sunk. — HMT. struck a mine and sank, 1115/13 near Cork, Lt. V. (F.O.I.C., Harwich, 2356/12).

GUADELOUPE — French chased by U-boat 46°46'N, 11°45'W at 2330 (in Bay of Biscay) (IC 0480/40).

ELLAROY — Attacked 0145 75 miles W.S.W. Cape Finisterre (D.S.).

S/M's reported.

0400 — By D/F 58°20'N, 2°40'E. Unreliable fix. (DNI, 0448/12).

2045 — A.F. message. 44°16'N, 13°54'W (DDIC 0055/13).

0845 — Sighted on surface 8 miles in 42°6'N, 10°55'W. by SS. CYPRUS. (Intercept from SS. CYPRUS. Plymouth 0810/12). Near position where SS. WASHINGTON was stopped 0600/11 and ATHEL PRINCE torpedoed 2300/11 and EARLS PARK 1010/12.

1430 — U-boat reported at Dunohean, Dingle Bay. (C-in-C., W.A. 2217/12 to COMET).

0958 — Submerged U-boat reported by French 49°41'N, 1°40'W., (C-in-C., 1st Region 0958/12).

1627 — Supposed C/T and P/S sighted by A/C 62°N., 0°10'E (IC.0480/40).

0900 — By yacht AURILA 10 miles S.E. Lowestoft. 3 destroyers and 2 corvettes searching. N.O.I.C. Harwich 0920/12, C-in-C., Nore 1011/12).

? — In mouth of Lock Cwin 8 miles S. of Stornoway. C.4. (C-in-C., Rosyth 2130/12).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING. (Contd.).

S/M's Reported.

Estimated dispositions.

Finisterre Area. One of them was in 43°24'N, 13°20'W, at 2300/11.
1 in Western Approaches.
Possibly 1 West of Hebrides outward bound.
1 North of Shetlands homeward bound.
Possibly patrols between Orkneys and Norway and between Shetlands and Faroes. (D.D.I.C. 1201/12).

1130 — 49:41 N., 0140 W, 2 miles N. from Cherbourg. French report. (C-in-C., Portsmouth 2245/12).

2045 — 44.16 N., 13.54 W. (WILLOWBANK attacked).

0014 — 42.00 N., 13.00 W. (ACWA 0014/12).

1010 — 41°30'N, 11°33'W. (DDIC. 1210/12).

1900 — Sighted on surface by civilian in mouth of Loch Nurin. C.4. (C-in-C., Rosyth 2104/12 to Adty).

1627 — 62°00'N. 0°10'. Possible S/M. A/C report. (Donibristle 2310/12, C-in-C., Rosyth 0156/13).

1900 — In mouth of Loch Nurin by civilian. On surface, submerged when sighted. C.4. (C-in-C., Rosyth 2104/12).

2316
0836 — By D/F 44°20'N, 14°0'W (unreliable) (DDIC., 0054/13). W/T signalling indicates U-boat 137°42°0'N, 13°0'W (C-in-C., W.A. 0836/12).

S/M's Attacked.

1220 — VIMIERA attacked contact 54°21'N, 0°46'. (VIMIERA 1220/12).

Mediterranean.

Dispositions of enemy S/M's. — Considerable number of enemy S/M's have been identified as being at sea but position not known (Capt. Q.S. ST. Angelo 1126/12).

War Diary.

12.6.40.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Mediterranean.

Ships Attacked.

ZINOVIA Sunk.	Greek. Mined and sunk near Pantellavia. 2 of 30 crew missing (Press).
CALYPSO Sunk.	Sunk 0200B/12 33°45'N, 24°32'E. 1 officer 38 ratings missing. Remainder arrived Alexandria in CALEDON and DAINTY 1000/3. No track seen probably torpedo magnetic pistol from S/M. (FOCIBS, 1401/13).
ORKANGER Sunk.	Norwegian (8029 tons) torpedoed 2300/12 and sunk off North coast of Egypt.

S/M's Reported.

1450	31°48'N, 29°9'E. S/M reported. No details. (R.A.(L), 1450/12).

S/M's attacked.

0410	By WATCHMAN 35°48'N, 5°10'W. (E. of Straits of Gib). F.O., C.N.A., considers the S/M may have been sunk or badly damaged. (DCNS 263). (FOCNA, 1149/12 to Adty.). By DIAMOND off Malta. Attack is believed by V.A. Malta to have been successful. (D.C.N.S. 263).
2147/10	By DECOY off Solburn. No wreckage seen but large patch of oil sighted at daylight 11/6. ((ASWD, 281).

War Diary

13.6.1940.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

France

Operation Cycle

During the dark hours of 12/13 a few small ships continued attempt to pick up stragglers at St. Valery. 1500 were embarked from St. Valery during the night 12/13 (D.C. 1934/13)

Ar 0130/13 a F.A.A. aircraft on patrol reported Havre in flames, with one large M.V. and 2 small M.V's burning. During the night 12/13 the evacuation of Havre was completed. 11000 Troops were embarked and sent to Cherbourg arriving p.m. 13th; the rearguard and beach parties returned to Portsmouth.

67 merchant vessels and 140 small vessels were employed. Such troops as could be evacuated at Veules, were taken off under difficult conditions owing to enemy fire. Air co-operation undoubtedly prevented severe losses in our sea forces.

GLORIOUS

37 survivors from the GLORIOUS and ACASTA have been landed in the Faroe Is. by the Norwegian ss BORGUND

SCOTSTOUN

Only 2 officers and 4 men are missing from the A.M.C. SCOTSTOUN (torpedoed and sunk)

Attack on M.V's at Bergen

During the night 12/13 June 12 Hudsons attacked shipping concentration in Puddefjord (Bergen) one M.V. is thought to have been hit, but poor visibility prevented the damage caused by the raid from being observed.

Attack on warships at Trondheim

In the attack early this morning by F.A.A. Skuas on the enemy warships at Trondheim, one battle cruiser received a direct hit abaft the funnel with a 500 lb. bomb. 8 Skuas out of 15 did not return. Continuous efforts by Coastal Command aircraft to reach Trondheim during 13th to continue attacks were prevented by fog.

Attack on Vaernes Aerodrome

Vaernes aerodrome was attacked by Coastal Command aircraft during the night in conjunction with the attack at Trondheim. The runway was hit and bombs burst among parked aircraft.

M.V. Concentration in Stavanger

The aircraft on the Kristiansand Stavanger Reconnaissance reported at 1900/13 about 12 merchant vessels of between 2000 and 5000 tons in Vestre Havn and 4 of about 2000 tons in Oestre Havn

War Diary

13.6.1940.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy M.V's off Ymuiden

At 1745/13 it was reported that M.V's were off the Dutch Coast in the region of Ymuiden, on a westerly course. Six aircraft of Coastal Command went out at 1845 to attack these ships, but the attack was unsuccessful owing to bad weather.

Mining

Ten moored mines have been cut in the areas Flamborough Head, Cromer, and North Foreland. One magnetic mine has been exploded in the North Foreland area and one located in Poole Bay. One floating mine has been reported in Bristol Channel and one off N.W. Ireland

The Loire is closed between St. Nazaire and Nantes.

Italian Hostilities

Attack on Assab Aerodrome

5 Blenheims operating from Aden attacked Assab aerodrome and a building and a hanger were hit.

Italian Air Attack

Four air raids took place over Malta, causing little damage and four casualties. The fourth raid was indiscriminate. DIAMOND was bombed off the harbour without success. She has again contacted, on the bottom in the same place, the submarine attacked on 12/6. V.A. Malta considers this attack fully successful.

Four attacks were made on Aden, without causing serious damage. Gladiators shot down one enemy aircraft and seriously damaged one. One of our aircraft is missing in our territory.

Italian aircraft carried out raids in East Africa and the Sudan. At Wajir they destroyed aviation petrol stores.

Minefield

GRAMPUS has laid a minefield blocking the entrance to Port Augusta, Sicely.

War Diary

13.6.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Blockships

Your 1517/13 Request information as to depth at low water at position proposed for blockship. (D.L.D., 1153/13, to C. in C., Portsmouth, N.O.I.C., Newhaven, R.N.O. Littlehampton.)

Harwich

Re operational control of controlled mines and torpedo tubes and appointment of another officer also blocking of Orwell. (F.O., Harwich, 1944/13)

Southampton

(See Mining)

Immingham

Requesting immediate balloon barrage protection for Immingham Dock (F.O., Humber, 1233/13)

Portland

Re guns for A/A defence (1st S.L.,(in reference to F.O.I.C. Portland's 1745/11) 1147/13)

A.F. Vessels

Concur in Admty. 2053/12, but essential that the order should apply to all A.F. vessels, M.T.B.'s R.A.F. high speed launches, etc., commencement will probably be asked for as soon as aerial invasion begins at any point within reach of warships' guns. It will certainly be necessary as soon as any attempt is made to bring a raid or invasion across the sea. (C.in C., Nore., 1314/13)

Summary of Military and Air Forces available for Home Defence (1st S.L. 1333/13 to C. in C., H.F.)

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Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

FURIOUS	Special duty (D.O.D. (H) 1435/13) See Operations volume.
DEVONSHIRE	To escort FURIOUS
ORMONDE ORONSAY ARANDORA STAR ETTRICK	Movements to join C.in C., W.A. D.O.D. (H) 2101/13 to C. in C., Rosyth, N.O.I.C. Greenock, R to C. in C., W.A.)
OTRANTO STRATHAIRD FRANCONIA LANCASTRIA	At your disposal from a.m./14 (D.O.D. (H) 2212/13 to C. in C., W.A.)
ILLUSTRIOUS	To sail for Sierra Leone, refuel and return to U.K. (D.O.D. (H) 1644/13)
REVENGE	Route from position 56.00'N., 08.15'W should arrive Plymouth by 0600/21 (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1541/13)
CARDIFF	To be sailed for Nore to refoim C.S. 2. (D.O.D. (H) 1916/13)
CALCUTTA	To remain under command C. in C., Portsmouth (D.O.D. (H) 1916/13)(Operation against enemy A/C aircraft)
Submarines	Positions 0600/14 (R.A.S., 1729/13)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operation XD Demolition

Party L (Chatham) is to proceed to Portsmouth forthwith (D.O.D. (H) 1448/13)

Admty. 1937/9 Intends to sail party and stores in ALDERSHOT at 2100 today. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1837/13)

French Coast

Le Havre

Aircraft reports Le Havre in flames. 1 large M.V. in flames 2 small M.V. burning. 2 DR., 3 M.V. stationary outside harbour. 3 salvos observed to fall on St. Valery Harbour and others behind town. Tugs and dredgers proceeding from Le Havre to Barfleur. Armed auxiliary 10000 tons with troops 15 miles off coast proceeding Portsmouth (Chatham 0050/13)

Loire

Loire mined. Suggest air sweeper be sent immediately and stationed there. (P.S.T.O. French Ports, 1230/13)

French Admiral St. Nazaire confirms Loure is clear from seawards up to and including St. Nazaire and traffic proceeding normally in this sector. (D.S.T.O. St. Nazaire, 1735/13)

Barfleur Trouville

Per Admty. from Capt. Wyatt. Reconnaissance completed Barfleur to Trouville. No beaches considered suitable landing or embarking mechanical transport in any quantity. From point on coast 240° 4 miles from Isle of St. Hesconf lighthouse beach running south eastwards for 4 miles to about Banc de la Magdaleine (Chart No 2073) considered very suitable for landing or embarking personnel only at any state of tide. Cherbourg Sub. Area to W.O., 0050/14)

Operation Cycle

Your 2110/12. Send back any ships which may elude sweep and arrive at rodezvous off St. Valery (C. in C., Portsmouth to S.N.O. Afloat 0029/13)

S.N.O. Havre, is in PENGUIN (VERA 0656/13

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HOME COMMANDS

Operation Cycle- Contd.

Evacuation Ended

Evacuation completed without opposition air protection, smoke bombs. Total number evacuated 11,000. Following transports sailed for Cherbourg during night of (?) 12th/13th June. ST. BRIAC, AMSTERDAM, TYNWALD, THEBES, EDGERALD, carrying 4000 troops including rear-guard; LOWICK, carrying beach party. rearguard beach party returning to U.K. in 6 motor launches and have been detached to Portsmouth under Com. R. Sherbrooke. Am proceeding with H.M.S. FERNIE and VEGA to Cherbourg to give general protection to British and French transports in conjunction with French destroyers which may also be covering route. (S.N.O. Havre, 0744/13)

No ships intercepted. My position 50. 20' N., 00.27'E. Request instructions. (WELLINGTON 0801/13) Return to Portsmouth (S.N.O. afloat 0946/13)

Signal expected time of arrival at Cherbourg of last ships of convoy. (C. in C. Portsmouth to S.NO. Havre in FERNIE, 0930/13)

Answer: 1500 (S.N.O. Havre, 1045/13)

My position K.C.B.P. 46 45 escorting slowest transport to Cherbourg, expected time of arrival 1700 (VEGA 1140/13)

Total evacuated 11,000 British, unknown number of French (S.N.O. Havre 2000/13)

Evacuation from Havre of 11,000 satisfactorily completed, but profoundly regret we only succeeded in bringing off about 1500 British and French from St. Valery area. 67 merchant ships and 140 small vessels organised and despatched from British ports. The numbers time and place were not all known until 1700/11.
Only 16 vessels with wireless out of 207 employed.
As majority were of low endurance and slow speed, necessary to assemble them o off French Coast and await developements. I examined situation at Havre 10/6 and decided to move small vessel flotillas to St. Valery, as it was obvious part of 51st Division were being forced back to coast in that neighbourhood. Intended flotillas to

/shelter...

War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Operation Cycle- Contd.

shelter in St. Valery, but they found harbour under enemy fire. I do not consider any great number would in any case have been evacuated from St. Valery area. By 0930/11 enemy were machine gunning our ships off St. Valery and by noon enemy had guns in position on coast to dominate beaches and later o that part of town in which our troops were crowded. Some of these guns immune from attack from the sea. At Veules every man found was taken off under difficult conditions under enemy fire, a gallant effort, so too was that of a small vessel that took off 80 near St. Valery under enemy fire. I kept evacuation forces on coast until late 12/6 until it became apparent nothing more to be done. Splendid effort of R.A.F. undoubtedly prevented severe losses on our sea forces. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1357/13)

Transports arrived Cherbourg. H.M.S. FERNIE sailing for Portsmouth now. Expected time of arrival 2100. (S.N.O. in FERNIE 1800/13)

Attack on Warships at Trondheim

One hit on battle cruiser abaft funnel. 8 Skuas out of 15 did not return. Ran into fog when flying over. ANTELOPE and ELECTRA collided capable of steaming 10 and 6 knots respectively. Have sent ARK ROYAL back to Scapa. Am standing by destroyers who are escorted by INGLEFIELD and ZULU. VISCOUNT with ss ELLESMERE and convoy. Suggest R.A.F. continue bombing if possible and also bomb cruiser reported in C. in C., Rosyth's 0302 (C. in C., H.F. 0904/13)

War Diary

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Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

AIR

British Air Activity

Destroyers Bombed

At 0030, 2 destroyers bombed in 60.55'N., 4.58'E. No hits. (Denibristle 0745/13)

Reconnaissance

Off Norway from 0650/13 to locate aerodromes etc., (Denibristle, 1035/13)

Off Bergen. 0001 to 0100/13 (Denibristle to T.O.O./13)

Vaernes Aerodrome

My 1616/12, result of attack on Vaernes Aerodrome by 42 Sqdn. (Beauforts) Direct hits 2 on ~~aerodrome~~ runway 2 on barracks, others among parked aircraft. (Denibristle 0808/13, 0800/13, C. in C. Rosyth 0938/13)

Fighters at night

Fighters to open fire on any aircraft, whether or not bearing navigation lights provided they are recognised as enemy type. Air Ministry ask that to standardise procedure night fighter zone at Scapa be abolished. Have your any objection (D. of L.D. to A.C.O.S. 1209/13-)

Aircraft Markings

Asking to advise 41 Group if you wish new colour scheme, for under surfaces of fighters to be painted blue, to apply to your aircraft. (Air Ministry to R.A.M.A.S. 1501/13)

Navigation Lights

Areas which will be notified where conjestion of aircraft might result in collision. (Air Ministry, 1035/13)

Bergen

Raid on harbour and shipping. No shipping observed in mist and darkness. Bombs burst and six fires started. (Denibristle, no T.O.O., Recd. 0452/13)

Trondheim. Enemy Ships Attacked

Dive bombing attack with 500 lb. S.A.P. bombs was carried out on enemy warships in Trondheim at 0200/13 by 15 Skuas of 800 and 803 Sqdns. Attack was pressed home in face of most intense A/A fire and heavy fighter opposition. There is good evidence including photographic that one and possible two hits were obtained on German battleship SCHARNHORST abeft funnel. Eight Skuas missing. (R.A. (A) 1017/14)

Aircraft of 254 Sqdn. patrolled off Trondheim from 0107 whilst awaiting return of Skuas from Trondheim. (Denibristle 0650/13)

War Diary

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Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

	British Air Activity Contd.
Stadlandet.	Reconnaissance from north of Stadlandet all coast and inlets as far south as 61.40 N., 04.50'E. Went up Norefiord as far as Maldo. No warships seen, no opposition of any kind. 1700 to 1740. (Donibristle, 2100/13)
Kristiansand	Searched Kristiansand Harbour, then proceeded coastwise to Stadlandet, no warships seen, 1630/ 1730. (Donibristle 2139/13)
	Enemy Air Activity
Norway	German naval aircraft appear to have carried out thorough reconnaissance of Norwegian coast from 60° to 64° between 0600 and 0800 today. (D.D.I.C. 0932/13)

War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Minelaying Policy

D.D.O.D. (M) 1815/13.

OCEAN SUNLIGHT

Lost while minesweeping (See U-Boat Campaign)

Southampton Water

Admty suggest enemy mine laying in approach to Southampton Water would be hampered by periodic establishment of water-borne balloons at night in important stretches of approaches. Water borne balloons of Southampton Barrage may be used for this purpose. Request consider this proposal and if agreed concert measures with C.in C., Portsmouth (Air Min., to Fighter Command, 0010/13)

Loire

Assistant B.N.L.O. Marceau now at Nantes reports Loire port blocked by magnetic mines and requests magnetic sweepers be sent as soon as possible. Are LL cables andclocks available for supply to Brest for one pair of French trawlers, otherwise fully equipped for LL service. (Admiral Ouest, 1250/13, to Admty)

Gibraltar

Your 1058/12 LL trawlers to be fitted with awnings at Gibraltar and operate from there for the present. (D.M.S. 1540/13)

Moored mines reported 51.31' N., 01. 49'E QZS is closed temporarily. All traffic to Southend for re-routing. (C. in C., Nore, 1236/13)

Enemy Intelligence

ADMIRAL SCHEER

0118 aircraft sighted 1 heavy cruiser believed to be ADMIRAL SCHEER 63.15' N 7.22' E course 125° speed 10 knots. (Denibristle, 0800/13 0630/13)

Large Cruiser

Aircraft report 1 large cruiser possibly NURNBERG class 63.15N., 7.20 E., at 0118, course 125° (Denibristle 0118/13: C. in C., Rosyth, 0602/13)

Norwegian Coast

W/T traffic between 1600/12 and 2000/12 may indicate enemy movements off Norwegian coast. (D.D.I.C. 0057/13 to C. in C., H.F. etc.,)

**2 Destroyers
2 M.V's**

61.55'N 5.36'E course 090° speed 6 knots 2 destroyers 2 merchant vessels (Aircraft 0745/13) (C. in C., Rosyth 0800/13)

War Diary

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Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence, Contd.

E-Boats

Admty 2335/11 Further summary of E-boat information (D.N.S.V. 2102/13)

Aircraft's 2145, for enemy submarine read one B.S. position W.P.F.S. 5000 course 360° Sunderland being sent to Shadow. (C. in C., Rosyth 2220/13) Cancel my 2220. No battleship sighted (C. in C., Rosyth 2304/13)

Unknown Unit

D.F. at 1919/13 position of unknown enemy unit, call sign D.H.V. was 59.10' N., 3.40'E., unreliable fix. (D.N.I. 1949/13)

My 1328 Enemy cruiser not located. Reconnaissance of Trondheim impossible owing to engine failure and weather (C. in C., Rosyth 2236/13)

Shipping

Ships for Italy

Customs authorities instructing officers to refuse clearance and bunkers to all ships of whatever nationality bound for Italian territory, Mediterranean ports and Black Sea Ports, except
(a) Ships of any nationality, other that Italian, bound for France or French North Africa.
(b) Neutral ships whether in ballast or in cargo bound for Spanish ports in the Mediterranean.
(c) Coal carrying ships of any nationality chartered by the French Mission for any destination. (Head of M., 2235/13

F.S. Convoys Protection

Remarks on Admty. 1918/12, re change of convoy programme for F.S. convoys, and use of M.T.B's and A/S trawlers against E-boats etc., (C. in C., Nore, 1820/13)

Store Convoy

British store convoy to continue under escort of cruisers and destroyers to Scapa. All Norwegian vessels not already detached for Thorshaven to proceed under suitable escort to Kirkwall any Norwegian and other warships so employed subsequently continuing to Scapa (C. in C., Rosyth, 0949/13 to NEWCASTLE)

13.6.1940.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping, Contd.,

Dutch and Belgian Ships — Cancelling my 0051/13/6 nightly report of Dutch and Belgian ships (D.T.D., 1149/13)

Ocean Convoys — Positions (D.C., 1840/13)

Plymouth Staff — Appointment of Liaison officers from M. of Shipping and Movements Control, Plymouth. Capt. Wright, Movement Control, War Office, will proceed to Plymouth when plans are further advanced (D. of P., to C.in C., W.A., 1642/13)

MERCHSHIPS — American, to leave New York 15/6 for Bordeaux arriving about 29/6 with red cross supplied. Important ship should proceed without any interruption. (Hd. of M., 1219/13)

Miscellaneous

Dutch Coasters — Dutch coasters commissioned in accordance with Admty. 2239/8 to be retained in commission and held in Portsmouth Command pending further instructions (A.C.N.S. (H) 1053/13 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Cables — My 1549/12 ALERT is required for urgent work in West of English Channel before cutting of Dieppe-Eastbourne. (D.S.D., 1600/13)

Identification Marks. — C.A.F.O. 681/40 is to be amended as follows:-

The four canvas squares should be painted with following marks.
(a) Single large red spot
(b) Two large red spots
(c) Single red bar fore and aft
(d) Two red bars fore and aft
Background white in all cases.
Signal bringing into force one of the above identification marks will be made by Admiralty S.N.O's may request Admiralty to do this. Marks will subsequently be changed at least once every 24 hours by order of the Admty. This order applies to all Minor War vessels.(D.S.D. 1931/13)

War Diary

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Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

0500

WEATHER

	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	W. to N.W. Light to Moderate	Poor to Moderate, fog patches	Visibility becoming good to very good.
Channel	N.W. Light to Moderate	Good to very good (Except in Straits of Dover)	Similar
W. Approaches	W. to N.W. Moderate	Good to very good.	Similar

War Diary

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Thursday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

CARINTHIA

Board of Enquiry into loss to be convened. (C. in C. Rosyth, to F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1245/13)

Suggest instructions to Board of Enquiry into loss of CARINTHIA should include investigation into effect of explosion and stagnational damage (V.A.N. P 1900/13)

CAROLINE SUSAN

Motor yacht, caught fire and sank off Needles.

ST. ABBS

Interview with survivor shows tug ST. ABBS was sunk in action off Dunkirk at 0915/1/6 (R.N. Barracks, Portsmouth, 1109/13)

War Diary

13.6.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Las Palmas

Situation. About 1,000 Spanish troops landed within last 6 weeks including an A/A battery. General situation outwardly quiet at present. Estimated strength of present garrison Las Palmas 3,000 men. (N.N.I., 1140/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

German Report

Admty. 1948/10. German battle cruiser passing through Straits to join Italian Fleet. Is ther further information? (F.O.C.N.A. 2004/13)

Answer, No, but only one German battle-cruiser can at present be located with certainty. (1st S.L., 1936/13)

South Atlantic

D/F Station

Your 1130/5. From point of view of South Atlantic D/F organisation it is not considered necessary to erect another high frequency D/F station at or near Walvis Bay. Considerable progress made with the coordination of the 3 D/F stations at Freetown. Ascension and the Cape and the cross bearings obtained from these 3 stations should meet requirements. Indian Ocean is covered by a system which includes Durban D/F station. (C. in C., S.A. to S.N.O. Simonstown. 1221/13)

Simonstown

Proposed to Union Govt. Simonstown be made a prohibited area. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1147/13)

Mediterranean

Policy

Proposal that Red Sea should be placed under command of C. in C., Med. Reasons.
(a) Spheres of operation of 3 C. in C's would coincide.
(b) Present arrangement difficult from Joint Planning point of view. Naval objections appear to be
(a) Burden on C. in C., Med.
(b) While C. in C., Med was at sea keeping W/T silence he could not deal with Red Sea questions, including convoys. This might be overcome by additional Captain on Staff, to remain at Alexandria with authority to deal with Red Sea questions. (1st S.L. 0105/13)

War Diary

13.6.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterreneon, Contd.

Italian Aircraft

Description of markings (Hd of A., 2100/13)

Refugees

Italian GALITEA with Consul-General and Italian refugees sailed 2030/13 (V.A. Malta 0803/14)

Enemy Unit ?

One unknown bearing 300 distance 13 miles course 330° position 2756 1640 (Casblanca, 2100/13)

Operations

Italian Units

Several units, possibly 2nd Squadron, were about 50 miles West of Cephalonia at noon 12/6. (C.O.I.C., 0100/13)

Enemy units are still off Cephalonia at 2100/12.

Only one other fix obtained outside local waters, approx position 35. 20'N., 21.00'E at 1824/12 call sign 7 0 D North African local torpedo boats have probably returned to harbour. Source Y indicates important enemy units were still at sea 0600/13 but position unknown. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1114/13)

Contraband Control

All enemy and neutral mails both inward and outward unless already subjected to examination are to be removed, except from Spanish Ships exempted from control by my 1414/11. Consult Censor in Charge as to subsequent disposal (D.E.W.D. 1903/13, to C.C.S.O., Gib.)

Italian Air Strength

Information received from Air Ministry graded A.1. Sicily Air Command reinforced 11th June by transfer from mainland 180 bombers and 72 fighters making strength in Sicily and Pantellaria as follows: Bombers 225 Dive Bombers 14 Fighters 96 Land Reconnaissance 9 Sea Reconnaissance 27. Headquarters 2nd Squadron Area also moved from Padua to Palermo.

I assume Air Headquarters Middle East keeps you informed of Italian air dispositions (D.N.I. 1936/13 to C. in C., Med.)

War Diary

13.6.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean Contd.

Malta Air Raids

Four air raids today in two of which bombs were not dropped. One raid on Hal Far, two soldiers killed two and one R.A.F. Officers wounded. Fourth raid indiscriminate. H.M.S. DIAMOND bombed off Harbour no hits. DIAMOND again contacted on bottom in same place submarine attacked yesterday and I consider attack fully successful (V.A. Malta, 2232/13)

Refugees

Governor anxious to sail ELNIL to Haifa with 150 Polish refugees ex Italian RODI before Egypt is brought into the war. They have British visas for Palestine. (V.A. Malta, 1050/13)

Minesweeping

Italian trawler GIULIO and Italian motor fishing boat CANO have been captured. Intend to use them locally in connection with magnetic minesweeping. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal Area, 1644/13)

C. in C., Med's Report of 13th states GLOUCESTER and LIVERPOOL met some small craft, probably M/S, off Tobruk on 10th June and engaged them probably successfully. Shore batteries opened fire but scored no hits. Action lasted eleven minutes. (D.C.N.S. 265)

War Diary

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Blockades

Request your remarks on practicability of establishing the blockades referred to in para 105 of A.L.M. 00897/39 having regard to the reduced forces at your disposal (A.C.N.S. (F) 1329/13 to C. in C., E.I.)

Air Raids, Aden

Following air raids over Aden. Wednesday 12th June 0020, Z to 0240 Z bombs dropped about 20 miles to Westward. 1830Z to 1900Z one bomb dropped on the crater, a few casulaties. One bomber brought down by fighters and some prisoners. 1915Z to 2015Z. Thursday 13th June 0100Z to 0200Z. Bomb between Aden wireless and crater. 0440Z to 0530Z bomb (s) dropped North shore of harbour. (N.O.I.C. Aden 1153Z/13)

JALAPALAKA

British due Colombo 10/6 from Rangoon, overdue. (S.O.I., Colombo, 1018/13)

America & West Indies

Dutch Signals

Replying to his 1734/10 re local Dutch recognition signals, to be arranged by Dutch S.N.O., Curacao. (D.S.D., to C. in C., A.W.I. 1933/13)

War Diary

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Thursday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Trawlers

Evening June 12th arrived and await further orders 2 Italian trawlers with cargoes of Cod from Newfoundland. Captain state 4 more approaching Azores. 0310/13)

ANDALUSIA

4499 G.T. arrived Tenariffe p.m. 13th with 6000 tons Wheat from BuenosAyres (I.C. 0482)

TERESA SCHIAFFINO

5168 G.T. arrived Tenariffe a.m. 13th June. (I.C. 0482)

In Neutral Ports

Full geographical disposition (I.C. 0482)

Foreign Stations

DENTICE

Aground, Maracaibo, set on fire, abandoned. (Kingston, Jamaica, 1241/13)

War Diary

13.6.1940.
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

MARGARETTA
Sunk 9/6

Finnish (1800 tons) was torpedoed and sunk 400 miles off N.W. Coast of Spain. 20 of crew of 25 landed. (Guyatt, Corunna, 1715/13)

OCEAN SUNLIGHT

Sunk 1345/13 while minesweeping off the West Breakwater Light, Newhaven. It is believed she struck a magnetic mine. 5 of crew saved. Skipper and one rating badly wounded. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2312/13)

ABEL TASMAN

Dutch school (314 tons) with naval crew sunk by mine off Poole, at 1030, close to wreck of PRINCESS JULIANA. (R.N.O. Poole, 1050/13)

Mediterranean

OPKANGER

Norwegian tanker, torpedoed 31.42'N., 28.50'E at 2300/12. Two torpedoes, 10 minutes apart, both striking 2 engines, one greaser, one seaman killed. Eng. Lt. Com. Crabbe, 2 stokers, and 9 military for Alexandria safe. (R.A. Alexandria 2049/13) C. in C. Med. reports that there is no doubt whatever that she was torpedoed without warning (D.C.N.S. 266)

Home Commands & North Atlantic

SCOTSTOUN
Sunk

A.M.C. Torpedoed a/P at 0600/13 while in passage to Northern Patrol, when 80 miles W. of Barra Island. HIGHLANDER and another destroyer and aircraft are proceeding to assist. Position 0600 57.N 10.W 4 miles (SCOTSTOUN 0600/13 C. in C., Rosyth 0702/13 0950/13 Lifeboats in position 57 N 10 W (Malin Head Radio 0837/13) Located lifeboats in H.B.S.N. 0030 Destroyer on way (S/244, 1310/13)

HIGHLANDER searched 10 miles round position sweeping of H.B.S.N. 4 no sign of SCOTSTOUN or lifeboat. Aircraft assisting. (HIGHLANDER 1225/13)

SCOTSTOUN sank 0730 Returning to Greenock with survivors (HIGHLANDER 1401/13) Aircraft reports SCOTSTOUN sunk. Destroyer picking up from boats 1400 (C. in C., Rosyth 1436/13 by 1401, 2 officers and 4 men missing. (HIGHLANDER 1543/13)

War Diary

13.6.1940.
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked
Home Commands & North Atlantic. Contd.

SCOTSTOUN (Contd.)

DELIGHT and ECHO and tugs HARRIER and BANDIT sent to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0959/13)

BRITISH INVENTOR

Sinking, probably mined 230° SF Albums 5 miles 0712 (F.O.I.C. Portland 0755/13) Reports of survivors indicate ship mined (F.O.I.C. Portland 0755/13 1018/13 British 7103 tons, Beached. Hoped to salve oil cargo (F.O.I.C. Portland 1516/13)

Submarines Reported

0600 — 57.0'N 9.52'W A.P. message (D.D.I.C. 0758/13)

1904 — 59.54 N., 00.10 E., off Fair Island (See Attacks)

2110 — By aircraft 60.50 N., 03.00 E (Aircraft 269 Sqdn. 2110/13, 2145/13) (C. in C. Rosyth, 2304/13)

2050 — By Civilian 5 miles S.W. of Mull of Kintyre, (C. in C., Rosyth 0012/14) (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 2220/13)

1505 — By Hudson aircraft of Coastal Command 060° Dunganesby Head 54 miles. Submarine dived. (Air Min. Daily Summary)

Mediterranean

0940 — 37. 10 N., 00.10 E, off Cartagena, French report. (Gibraltar W/T, 1015/13, F.O., Gibraltar 1201/13)

1904 — 37.00'N 0.30'W 35°33' of Cape Palos. Indefinite position. (I.C. 0432)

1934 — Probably W. of Gibraltar. Indefinite position. (I.C. 0432)

Estimate U-Boat dispositions:-
2 2 in Finisterre Area, one of them apparently moving N.W. possibly in 46. 46'N. 11.45'W at 2330/12. 1 S.W. of Ireland at 0345/13. 1 in 57. N 9. 52'W at 0600/13 probably outward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1148/13)

War Diary

23.6.1940.
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Attacked

1904

By aircraft 59.54 N., 0020 off Fair Island. Sighted on surface and dived. Oil seen after attack (C. in C., Rosyth 2130/13) (Donibristle, 2150/13)
1st stick of five bombs at 1904 on port quarter, 2nd stick of four half minute later on same quarter. Two near misses out of 1st stick, and one direct hit out of second stick. Submarine certainly badly damaged judging by amount of oil visible afterwards. (Donibristle, Form Alus, Read. 2306/13)

War Diary

14.6.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Convoy U.S. 3

HOOD (from England) and ARGUS(from Gibraltar) met Convoy U.S. 3, with 16,500 Australians at 1000, west of the Bay of Biscay, and escorted it to the Clyde.

DORSETSHIRE attacked a U-Boat 1400/14 lying in the path of the convoy, apparently by using A/S bombs, and believes that the submarine was destroyed or badly damaged.

ARGUS has landed most of her aircraft at Hyeres.

Escorts for Military convoys

The shortage of escort vessels in the Western Approaches is acute. There are no escorts at present available for the Military Convoys and other important commitments now pending. There has been a marked increase of U-boat activity in the area.

Narvik Stores Convoy

Escorted by NEWCASTLE and SUSSEX, arrived Scapa a.m./14 and proceeded to the Clyde.

France

The Germans entered Paris today. The French Government moved from Tours to Bordeaux.

It is now stated that the number of troops evacuated from St. Valery by sea was 2280.

Norway

Air action is to be taken against all merchant vessels in Norwegian Fiords between Trondheim and Christiansand.

Mining

Magnetic mines have been exploded at Cherbourg, and moored mined have been sunk off the coast of Norway to the N.E. of Narvik.

The East Coast Mine Barrier was extended during the night 13/14

Italian Hostilities

French Naval Forces bombarded military objectives at Genoa, and French aircraft attacked and set alight oil storage tanks at Venice. French mines have been laid off Cagliari.

Italian aircraft made several attacks on Valetta, dropping H.E. and incendiary bombs and causing some civilian casualties but no military damage. The Civilian morale at Valetta is so far very good.

The cables between Malaya and Rome, and those between Malaya and Barcelona have been cut.

War Diary

14.6.1940.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Italian Hostilities Contd.

A torpedo was fired at destroyer VIDETTE at 0005/14 by a submarine in Spanish territorial waters near Alm~~i~~a Point.

C. in C., Mediterranean's report of 13/6 states that GLOUCESTER and LIVERPOOL engaged some small craft, probably minesweepers, off Tobruk 10/6, probably with success. Shore batteries opened fire but scored no hits during the action, which lasted 11 minutes.

War Diary

14.6.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Western Approaches. Escorts, etc.

In view of marked increase of U-Boat activity, it is essential to increase all Mercantile Convoy escorts to two per convoy. In addition A/S Striking Forces of Destroyers of long Endurance are required particularly in the Finisterre Area.

Number of vessels now allocated to this command barely sufficient for two escorts on each mercantile convoy and cannot deal with Military Convoys nor with other important commitments now pending.

Therefore urgently requested that all destroyers which can be spared may be sent to Western Approaches, first priority being given to those suitable as A/S Striking Forces. (C. in C., W.A. 1637/14)

Defence of U.K.

Your 1729/11 Coast between Dungeness and Hastings appears very vulnerable. Submit battery should be sited to cover it (V.A.Dover 1201/14 to Admty.)

Parachute Report, Unconfirmed

Report received and confirmed from District Commissioner that seven or eight Parachute Troops landed near Parton village ten miles N.W. of Castle Douglas. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1710/14 to Admty)

1710 Report not definitely confirmed by Ministry of Home Security (D. of L.D. 14/6)

Military report that no parachute troops have been found and that search will be abandoned at dusk. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 2147/14)

Pyrotechnic Signals

Being supplied to certain coastal forces operating on East and South Coasts. Details. (D.S.D., 1827/14)

War Diary

14.6.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

BEARN

Special duty (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 0009/14) See Operations Volume. Anticipated date of sailing about 1200/16 (Admty. 2011/14, F.O.C. 3 B.S. 2346/14 Recd. 0421/16)

Submarines

Positions 0600/15 (V.A.S., 1352/14)

AIR

British Air Activity

Shipping in Norway

Now considered most important that all merchant vessels situated in Norwegian Fiords between Trondheim in the North and Christiansand in the south should be attacked and sunk. Attacks should only be made when you consider cloud conditions are suitable. Where little of no A/A opposition is likely every opportunity is to be taken to use torpedoes. Admiralty are being requested to co-operate as far as possible with swordfish aircraft based at Hatston. (Air Ministry, 1230/14, to Coastal Command (1231/14 to Admty)

Haugesund

2 Merchant vessels in Fiord adjacent to Haugesund attacked. Bombs overshot by 40 yards, no damage observed. Search for suspected aerodrome at Haugesund but quite definite nothing there. (Denibristle 1700/14)

Enemy Air Activity

ARIADNE
PRINS OLAV

Sunk by bombs in the Arctic on 9/6. Captain Askim requests broadcast over Norwegian transmissions that crews and passengers were rescued at once by British destroyer ARROW 9 casualties (including one stewardess) in ARIADNE, 1 in PRINS OLAV (A.C.O.S., 1058/14, 1136/14)

They were on passage from Norway to Thorshavn (Faroe Is) (Cabinet W.R.R. 286)

War Diary

14.6.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Warships at Trondheim

Trondheim reconnaissance this afternoon(1450) report 1 battle cruiser, 1 cruiser (or pocket battleship) 3 destroyers and 1 troopship. Attack by 6 Hudsons and 3 Beauforts ordered for tonight. (C. in C., Rosyth 1832/14 2032/14, Denibristle, 1850/14)

Minesweepers

3 enemy minesweepers, position 60.06'N 05.04'E. (A/C, 224 Sqdn., 1230/14) (Denibristle 1700/14)

M/V's

2 attacked by aircraft 3 miles S. of Haugusund at 1238/14 (I.C. 0482)
1 about 1000 tons, course 230° at Romsdal Fjord at 1400/14 (I.C. 0482)
1 about 200 tons, course 090° at Romsdal Fjord at 1408/14 (I.C. 0482)
3 M/V's and 2 Drifters at Romsdal Fjord at 1604/14 (I.C. 0482)

Norwegian Situation

German G.H.Q. in Norway now appear to be at Trondheim.
About 2000 men are employed on construction of Vaernes Aerodrome and one at Hatfjildalen North of Mo. Believed about 140 planes in Trondheim district.

Norwegians building private W/T station unknown to Germans, at Trondheim. (A.C.O.S. 1414/14, Report by Comdr. Hoydmak R.N.N.)

War Diary

14.6.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

ROSENHOLM
FRAMNAS
BRATTFORS

The German authorities, according to a report from Gothenburg of May 24 have seized the three Swedish ships ROSENHOLM, 1736 tons, the FRAMNAS, 721 tons, and the BRATTFORS, 929 tons.

ESTONIA

The Estonian ESTONIA, 1181 tons, while on her way from Tallin to Stockholm was stopped and searched by a German warship, and several sacks of mail said to be from Great Britain and France were seized. (Lloyds 14/6)

Convoy O.E.2.

MACKAY arrived Brest 2230 G.M.T. to escort Convoy O.E.2 back to Plymouth and Falmouth. (C. in C., W.A., to Admiral Ouest, 2252/14)

Spanish Shipping

Policy (see North Atlantic)

Convoys

Positions 1300/15 (D.C., 1935/14)

Gibraltar

Proposing only one O.G. and H.G. convoy be run in every 8 day cycle, and that other ships for South Atlantic ports proceed in OA and OB Convoys, to improve escort and save flying. (C. in C., 2346/14)

WEATHER

0645/B.S.T.	Wind	Weather	Visibility
North Sea (a) Western Half	Light & Variable	Fair to Cloudy	Mainly Good
(b) Eastern Half	Between S.W. & N.W. Mod.	Rain with local mist or fog.	Moderate to Poor,
Horns Reef	S.W. Moderate	Local Fog	Moderate to Poor.
Channel	Mainly N. Light	Fair to cloudy	Mainly Good
N. Approaches	Light and Variable	Fair to cloudy	Good

War Diary

14.6.1940.
Friday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

ARK LENSEN

Struck submerged object, two distinct bumps, no movement in water to indicate what it was. 48.29 N., 7.26 W., at 0955/ B.S.T. (N.C.S.O. Thames. 1302/14)

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

VIDETTE, Submarine attack, Spanish waters. At about 0005/14, A/S patrols sighted submarine on surface south of Almina Point. Was not attacked as she was within Spanish territorial waters. She later fired a torpedo at VIDETTE which missed and she then entered Almadraba Bay and was lost to sight underlights of Ceuta. Request very early instructions as to action to be taken agninst enemy submarines within territorial waters having regard to present delicate relations with Spain, also that representations be made to Spanish Govt. with view to preventing improper use of their waters. (F.O.C.N.A., 1150/14).

Canary Islands Patrol Your 1954/12. In view of number of Italian ships now at sea on your station it is desired to maintain Canary Island patrol for the time being. HERMES, DELHI and PATROCLUS remain at your disposal until further orders. (D.O.D.(F), 1340/14 to F.O.C.N.A.).

French Positions (D.C. 0325/14).

Destroyers needed for escorts In view of marked increase in U-Boat activity essential to increase all M/S convoy escorts to 2 per convoy, and A/S striking forces of long endurance destroyers also required especially in Finisterre Area. Request all destroyers which can be spared be sent to Western Approaches accordingly. (C. in C., W.A. 1637/14 to Adty.).

Your 1637/14. Your situation fully realised. Every effort will be made to meet your requirements (D.O.D.H. 2310/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

ARCOLA Italian, with 3600 tons oil fuel reported arrived Teneriffe P.M. 12th June. Reliability of report moderate. (F.O.C.N.A. 1242/14).

Spanish Shipping Requesting immediate decision on C.C.S.O. Gibraltar's 1300/13 reporting detention of Spanish CABO ORTEGAL in view of increasing delicacy of relations with Spain, also early decision as to general policy towards Spanish ships. (F.O.C.N.A. 1208/14).

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Italian Submarines H.M. Ambassador, Cairo reports French Minister has learnt from usually reliable (0 source) that 4 Italian submarines have been sent from Italian East Africa to the Cape to interfere with Allied Traffic there and perhaps to co-operate with German Units in Atlantic (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1656/14).

Mediterranean.

Policy

Request very early instructions as to action to be taken against enemy submarines within territorial waters having regard to present delicate relations with Spain (F.O.C.N.A. 1150/14 to Adty.)

Oil Fuel Shipments crude oil from Haifa and Tripoli indefinitely suspended. Pipe line Tripoli now closed down stock crude oil about 130,000 tons. Pipe line Haifa will function to extent of demand on refinery primarily to ensure maximum production fuel oil vide my 1627/6 to C. in C., Medit. (Adty. 1132/14).

Mediterranean

Air.

My request 7672/14 to divert have some Hurricanes destined for Egypt to support civilian morale at Malta. If you could support this, would make my task here much easier (Governor Malta 1433/14 to C. in C., Medit.)

Air defence Governor Malta's 7672/14 to W.O. and C. in C., Med. Most strongly ~~must~~ support this request. Hurricane's armament stores ex WINCHESTER CASTLE would take six weeks reach Egypt via Cape, whereas they could be rushed to Malta from Gibraltar in two days by destroyer and enable Hurricanes get into action. This most important to sustain morale of Maltese polulation in case of invasion when immediate naval help not possible. (C. in C., Med. 1705/14 to Adty.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Air (Contd.)

G.M. 7673/14. Your 73801 (M.O.2.) 12/6. I think 2 things are most important. (1) French should be asked to attack Italian aerodromes in Sicily. (2) I should have a few modern fighters here for short periods from time to time. As regards (1) hope you will press French to co-operate in this way These steps are necessary to keep up civil morale. With my slender resources in men I cannot afford to let that get lowered. The very fact that additional good aircraft come here from time to time would encourage civilians greatly. (Governor and C. in C., Malta, 1436/14).

Air reconnaissance of Mersa Tobruk P.M. 14th June showed large number ships and transports still in harbour. 2 ships possibly transports sighted 40 miles N.W. of Mersa Tobruk steering towards Tobruk. (S.O.I. Alexandria 2009/14 to C. in C., Med.)

Air raid on Malta — Air raid on Valetta and Marsamuscetto Harbour at 0635/14 G.M.T. H.E. and Incendiary bombs dropped. 1 enemy machine believed destroyed. No apparent military damage or casualties. (Governor Malta 1112/14 to W.O.)

ARGUS has landed most of her aircraft at Hyeres. (D.C.N.S. 265).

Genoa bombed — 9 aircraft bombed Genoa tonight. Hits seen on seaplane hangars, power station and Ansaldo works. All aircraft returned. (Britnard, Hyeres, 2312/14).

Mediterranean - Enemy Intelligence

A number of Second-Squadron units including cruiser TRIESTE were at sea in Lower Tyrrhenean sea last night 13th. At 2100/13 8 units were addressed by Marsa Tobruk on wireless. (Capt. ST. ANGELO to C. in C., Med. 0833/14).

Unidentified Italian Unit call sign 2 LM near Gib. at 1934 B.S.T. (D.C. 2230/14 to F.O.C.N.A.)

My 1025/14. Italian troop ship 530 was at sea during night, position not known. F.O.C. 1st. B.S. informed (Capt. O.S. ST. ANGELO 1046/14).

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Italian Submarines — Ambassador, Cairo, reports French Ministry has learnt form usually reliable sources that 4 Italian submarines have been sent from Italian East Africa to Cape to interfere with Allied traffic there and perhaps to co-operate with German units in Atlantic. (C. in C., E.I., 06342/14).

My 2358/14. Request you will transfer to the South Atlantic Stations 1 A.M.C. having an endurance of not less than 6000 miles and, if possible, self-supporting in fresh water. vessel will be required to arrive Freetown by 26th July for duty with augmented Sierra Leone convoy Escort Force. (1st S.L. 2359/14 to C. in C., E.I.)

China

British - French - Dutch co-operation — Subjects discussed. (F.O.C. Singapore, 06552/13).

New Zealand

HECTOR — Your 0111/6. Your agreement to release HECTOR is much appreciated. Request you will place vessel at disposal of C. in C., East Indies, as from June 24. (D.O.D.(F), to N.Z. Navy Board, 2358/14).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Foreign Stations

GALATEA 2 communicating With Submarines	Italian ship GALATEA left last night burning all round white lights on main mast and bright lights on each quarter in line with upper deck. As 2 other Italian ships have been observed burning similar lights late on leaving harbour it is probably a means of communication with hostile submarines. (F.O.I.C. Malta 0829/14)
RAPALLO	Cartagena Colombia reports alongside for water. Trying to purchase oil fuel. Company telegraphed to Toronto for instructions. (S.O.I., Kingston, Jamaica, 1228/14).
CALABRIA	Asking if she has been seized in prize. (C. in C., E.I. to N.OI.C. Calcutta, 1140Z/14).
GERARCHIA	5859 G.T. at St. Vincent C.V. ordered to dismantle wireless. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1021/14).
FRANCO MARTELLI	10,535 G.T. N.C.S.O. Pernambuco reports anchored at Natal (Brazil) and probably sailing for Pernambuco in next contigent. (S.O.I.Kingston 1537/14 to C. in C., A. & W.I.)
TAIGETE	4672 G.T. Arrived Teneriffe p.m. 14/6. (Consul Teneriffe, 1557/14 to S.O.I. Gibraltar)
CLIZIA	Arrived Gijon 12th June from Havre (Vigo 1830/14 to Adty.)
3 Trawlers	At 44:30 N., 51:20 W. course S.E. on 7th June. (C. in C., N.A. & W.I. 1648/14 to Adty.)
ATLAS	2005 G.T. arrived Tampico, partly loaded. (I.C. 0482).

War Diary

14.6.1940.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Home Commands & North Atlantic

Ships Attacked

BALMORAL WOOD

British 5834. Torpedoed and abandoned at 50.19'N 10.28'W 70 miles S.S.W. of Cape Clear at 1748/14 With 8451 tons of grain and 4 aeroplanes on board she had failed to join her convoy HX 47 at the R/V. (D.S. 284) (Lands End Radio 1748/14)

~~PACIFIC PIONEER~~

~~Brit. tanker 6734. Torpedoed at 2305/14 at 50.37'N 8.44'W 60 miles S.S. of Cape Clear. (D.S. 284) (D.I.C. 0432) In Convoy HX 47)~~

MYRTLE
Sunk

M/S Trawler mined and sunk at 1553/14 187° Shingles Buoy 2.1 miles (in Thames Estuary) Feared no survivors. (D.S. 284) C. in C., Nore 1801/14)

ITALIA
Sunk

Norwegian tanker (9973 tons) In Convoy HX 47, torpedoed 2400/14 and sunk in same positions as ERIK BOYE below, 22 survivors.

ABEL TASMAN

Dutch coaster, blown up at Poole. No survivors. C.O., Lieut. E. T. Mudie R.N., ex H.M.S. EXCELLENT. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1204/14)

ss ATHEL PRINCE
torpedoed 11/6)

Was met at 2000/14 by ENCHANTRESS, 180 miles N. of Finisterre. She was hit by 2 torpedoes and is leaking; but is under control and making for Falmouth (D.C.N.S. 265)

MOUNT MYRTO
Sunk

Greek (5403 tons) torpedoed, shelled and sunk 1630/14, 50. 0'N 9.30'W (85 miles S. of Fastuet) 3 survivors.

ERIK BOYE
Sunk

British (ex Danish 2238 tons) sunk by submarine 50.37'N 8.44'W 16 survivors 19 missing. In Convoy HX 47.

Estimate U-Boat dispositions

One in Finisterre Area. One or possibly two in Western Approaches.
One S.W. of Ireland homeward bound.
One West of Ireland outward bound.
One passing North Rona outward bound.
One in 59. 54' N 0. 10'E at 1904/13 homeward bound.
One in 60.50' N 3.E at 2110/13 bound North. (D.D.I.C. 1259/14)

War Diary

14.6.1940.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported

1114	53.55'N 13.0'W. Unreliable fix (C. in C., W.A. 1256/14 to ships W.A.)
1114	49.50'N 12.20' W Unreliable fix (C. in C., W.A. 1256/14 to ships W.A.)
0731	56.45'N 5.15'E D/F report Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 0855/14)
0500	49.02'N 47'W. (D.D.I.C. 0759/14) BROKE and WESTCOTT ordered to attack (C. in C., W.A. 0631/14)
0101	Submerged submarine. (Portsmouth Radio 0101/14 to Ships)
1520	D/F report 52.45'N 12.15'W Reliable fix. Probably U-Boat (D.D.I.C. 1555/14 to C. in C., W.A.)
2512	Smoke Trail observed on surface at 59.25'N 2.12'W by aircraft (Denbristle 1150/14)
1748	50.19'N 10.28'W (Admty. A.F. Message. D.D.I.C. 2015/14) C. in C., W.A., 1904 /14 gave time as 1848)
0005	2 submarines sighted off Almina Point (F.O.C.N.A., 0430/14)
1922	55.50'N 08.0'W Idefinite position. (O.I.C. 0432) (D.D.I.C., 1957/14)
1129	49.50'N 12.20'W Indefinite position (O.I.C.0432)
1630	46.20'N 9.00'W. P/S reported by LEEDS UNITED (O.I.C. 0432) (ENCHANTRESS, 1920/14)
1359	45.23'N 17.32'W. (O.I.C. 0432)
2305	A.F. message 50.37'N., 8.44'W (D.C. 0145/15)
2045	D.F. bearings probable U-Boat, position cannot be estimated. (D.C., 2118/14)

War Diary

14.6.1940.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

1359 Z

Submarines Attacked

Have attacked submarine 45.23'N 17.32'W with aircraft A/S bombs, consider sunk or severely damaged. (DORSETSHIRE 1359Z/14 to Admty) (Submarine was in path of convoy UC 3)

2105

Ocean-going submarine attacked by aircraft 60.50'N 3.00'W. No result observed. (Denibristle 1150/14)

Ships Attacked, Mediterranean

VIDETTE

Attacked by submarine with torpedo south of Almina Point. Torpedo missed. Time after 0005/14 (F.O.C.N.A. 1150/14 to Admty)

Submarines Reported

0101

Possible periscope reported by French ROSE LA MOUCHE 30'N of Alexandria (D.S. 284) (Fr. M/Sweeper COMMANDANT BORY 1800/14)

0331

36.N 6.W 10' south of Cape Trafalgar. Indefinite position. (O.I.C. 0482)

0100

31.40'N 29.10'E (28 miles N. of Alexandria) by VOYAGER, STUART, and DECOY.

0005

2 s/m's sighted off Almina Pt. (FOCNA 0430/14)

SITUATION REPORT

Home Fleet C. in C., H.F. in RODNEY with RENOWN and 6 destroyers returned to Scapa 1640/15. All heavy ships of the Home Fleet, except HOOD (with U.S.3) are now in harbour.

Northern Patrol A.M.C. ANDANIA was torpedoed at 2330/15 in position 200 miles S.E. of Reykjavik. She was abandoned at 0331/16. 50 Officers and 300 ratings were saved. The remaining A.M.Cs on patrol were ordered to re-establish the patrol on a line 90 miles to the south west of the previous position.

Losses in Convoy HX 47 and off Fastnet. 3 Ships in the homeward bound Halifax Convoy HX 47 have been torpedoed:-

(i) BALMORAL WOOD 1748/14, about 70 miles S.S.W. of Cape Clear.

(ii) ITALIA 2330/14, 60 miles S.E. of Cape Clear.

(iii) ERIK BOYE. Same position as above.

and, not in convoy:-

(iv) MOUNT MYRTO, Galveston to London, torpedoed and shelled 85 miles South of Fastnet 1630/14).

France Photographic reconnaissance by Coastal Command of Dunkirk showed 2 minesweepers in the harbour at 1430/15. BERKELEY has been ordered to Bordeaux endeavour to get in touch with the French Govt. and act as W/T link until relieved by ARETHUSA. The latter is in addition, to be prepared to evacuate the British Embassy if this becomes necessary.

A continuous stream of military transports carrying B.E.F. will be proceeding to France today and tomorrow.

Mining PORPOISE laid mines off Trondheim Fiord 15/6.

Air The C. in C. H.F. has suggested that daily air reconnaissance should be carried out of the Naval bases in Germany and Norway, so that we shall not again be taken by surprise as on 8/6 when GLORIOUS was sunk.

Bergen was attacked from the air early this morning An ammunition dump and the docks were hit. 2 liners were seen in the fiords, and 29 merchant ships in Bergen harbour at 0900.

2 armed ships and several other merchant vessels of about 8000-10000 tons, including 2 tankers, were sighted steering south along the Norwegian coast, and were unsuccessfully attacked.

An.....

SITUATION REPORT

Air (Contd.)

An attack was organised for the early morning 15/6, on SCHARNHORST, one cruiser, 3 destroyers and 5 M.Vs observed at Trondheim 1500/14, but owing to bad weather the force did not take off.

During the night 14/15th there was rather less enemy air activity over Britain, though raids were reported at Poole, Aberdeen, Harwich, Stronsay Area.

It is considered that a very large number of enemy aircraft have been withdrawn from Norway, and thrown into the West front offensive, leaving comparatively few machines in Norway. (H.Q.C.C. 1805/15).

Italian Hostilities

Submarines damaged

Aerial photographs confirm a report by the French Consul General, Tetuan, that there is a damaged Italian submarine at Ceuta. This is possibly the submarine which WATCHMAN attacked 12/6. It is reported to be leaving Ceuta tonight.

Genoa & Spezia bombed

Nine F.A.A. aircraft from Hyeres bombed Genoa on the night 14th. Hits were observed on seaplane hangars, power station and Ansaldo's Works. French aircraft bombed Spezia last night.

Malta raided

There were 2 air raids on Malta today. The first, by a single aircraft, resulted in one hit on the Naval Armament Depot, and a lighter was sunk in the harbour. The second, by 2 aircraft was not pressed home. When engaged by Gladiators, which were far inferior in speed. The enemy aircraft dumped their bombs in the sea and on waste land and retired.

French Naval movements

The French 3rd Sqdn. has returned to Toulon after a bombardment of objectives at Genoa. The "Force de Raid" has returned to Algiers and Oran.

Turkey

The Turkish President has informed our Ambassador at Angora that Turkey intends to remain non-belligerent for the time being in view of the danger of war with Russia.

War Diary

15.6.40.
Saturday

DEFENCE OF U.K.

Port Schemes — In view of present circumstances it is now proposed that Immobilisation Schemes should be prepared for all Southern Ports from Swanage to Lands End. (D. of L.D. 1450/15 to C. in C. Home Forces).

Request approval for immediate supply of 8 guns, mountings, shields and ammunition for Dartmouth Brixham, Torquay and Fowey where sites for 4.7 guns have been agreed with military. (C. in C. W.A. 1714/15 to Adty.).

Coast Defence Policy — Your 1143/4. The primary effort must be to safeguard the East and South Coasts. Ports in industrial and strategic positions from Clyde southwards also require safeguarding. Ports north of Clyde are of less importance, but you are requested report any measures you consider necessary to supplement coast-watching and customs organisations there to ensure early alarm to military. (D. of L.D. 2117/15 to C. in C., Rosyth).

Smuggling Men or Arms — Measures under consideration to guard against possibility of enemy smuggling men or arms into British ports in merchant vessels. Proposed ships in convoy be searched at convoy assembly ports before sailing. Search would be naval responsibility, assistance by customs and Police being arranged locally. Request report. (A.C.N.S.(T) to C. in C's A.W.I., S.A., and F.O.C.N.A., 2323/15).

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

BEARN — French Aircraft Carrier BEARN escorted by French Training Cruiser JEANNE D'ARC will sail from Halifax 0600/16. (Capt. Dockyard Halifax 1612/15 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa). See Operations Volume.

Submarines — Positions 0600/16. (V.A.S. 1718/15, D.C. 2118/15). My 1552/8/9/39. Intend to enlarge Plymouth Submarine sanctuary, divided by meridian 4:30 W. into the Western Sanctuary and Eastern Sanctuary. (C. in C., W.A. 1856/15).

MALOJA — Adty. 0004/15. Proceed to Freetown route forthwith, required Freetown 2/7 (For augmented Sierra Leone escort Force).

CANTON — Return to Clyde.

CORFU — and CANTON to be sailed by F.O.C.N.P. as required (C. in C., W.A. 2321/15, 2339/15).

Routes — Between ports in Portsmouth Command and France. Continuous A/S patrol to be maintained until dark tonight 15/6 and from dawn to dusk 16/6. Shipping along these routes will be proceeding independently and in continuous stream, not in convoy.

Six Blenheims to be in immediate readiness to take off should shipping be attacked by enemy aireraft. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1915/15).

Operations

Operation ARIEL.

CLAN FERGUSON, MARGOT, GOVERNOR, TEIRESIAS to be sailed for St. Nazaire with all despatch. (C. in C., W.A. 0044/16 to S.T.O. Avonmouth).

Coast of France

ARETHUSA — On arrival at St. Nazaire land remaining parties and proceed to Bordeaux. Proceed with despatch. (V.C.N.S. 1229/15).

& BERKELEY W/T Communications. Evacuation of Embassy. — (a) On arrival at Bordeaux BERKELEY is to endeavour to get in touch with French Govt. and act as W/T link between H.M. Govt. and French Govt. until relieved by ARETHUSA. (b) ARETHUSA is in addition to be prepared to evacuate British Embassy if this becomes necessary. (c) Question whether ARETHUSA remains at Le Verdon or proceeds to Bordeaux is at discretion of C.O. (V.C.N.S. 1519/15).

War Diary

15.6.40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous.

W/T Communication Established

Emergency W/T communication now established between London G.P.O. and French W/T Station Croix d'Hins at Bordeaux. (C.T.O. received 2250/15).

Operation XD (Demolition)

Party "M" for St. Malo is assembling in VERNON. Includes one officer and 10 ranks R.E. Party to be at 4 hours notice. (D.O.D.(H) 1841/15 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Iceland

EMERALD — On arrival Reykjavik to embark survivors from British aircraft 4 German prisoners, etc. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1629/15).

Air.

British Air Activity

Daily R/c of German & Norwegian bases suggested.

The quite unexpected appearance of heavy enemy forces in far North on 8th June which led to sinking of GLORIOUS and other ships shows it to be absolutely essential that our scheme of Air Reconnaissance should be overhauled. Most galling that enemy should always know just where our ships are whereas we generally learn where his major forces are when they sink one or more of our ships. Suggest a daily R/c of Wilhelmshaven, Brunsbuttel, Bergen, and Trondheim areas and of Kiel every other day, to locate enemy B.C.'s, pocket Battleships and Cruisers. (C. in C., H.F. 1541/15 to Adty.)

Norwegian Coast

Aircraft attacked two armed M.Vs of 8,000 to 10,000 at 1015 /15. No damage. (Donibristle to O.I.C. Reed. 1630/15).

Attack on Trondeim

My 1832/14. Attack on Trondheim not carried out owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0840/15 to C. in C., H.F.).

Ref. RO/019/14/6. Attack to be carried out tonight by 6 Hudsons 233 escorted by 4 Blenheims 254 Sqdn. (Donibristle to O.I.C.: Reed. 2205/15).

War Diary

15.6.40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

AIR

British Air Activity

Norwegian Coast

Aircraft attacked two armed M.V's of 8,000 to 10,000 tons at 1015/15. No damage (Donibristle to O.I.C. Recd. 1630/15)

Attack on Trondheim

My 1832/14. Attack on Tronheim not carried out owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth 0840/15 to C. in C., H.F.)

Ref. 1832/14. Attack to be carried out tonight by six Hudsons 233 escorted by four Blenheims 254 Squadron. (Donibristle to O.I.C.: Recd. 2205/15)

Reconnaissance of French ports and Ostend

A daily reconnaissance should be carried out of Boulogne, Calais, Dunkirk, Ostend to observe movements of enemy shipping. (H.Q.C.C. 1253/15 to Adty)

Aircraft attacked 2 Drifters and 2 Trawlers 20' N. of Sogne Fiord at 0345/15.

Attack on Bergen

Shipping, Docks and railhead attacked at 0254 from 2500 feet, 8400 lbs. of bombs dropped. 6 hits ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ and estimated considerable damage to jetty and warehouses, ammunition dump destroyed. (Donibristle 0527/15, Air Min. D.S. 332).

Patrols

My 1526/4. Patrols S.12 and W.2 not being flown owing to shortage of aircraft (C. in C., Rosyth 0534/15).

Attacks on enemy ships

Aircraft attacked 2 A.M.V's 8000-10000 tons at 1015/15 at 60:30 N., 4:52 E.; a convoy of 2 Tankers and 1 Patrol Vessel at 0950 at 61:16 N., 4:50 E.; 2 M.Vs and 1 Destroyer at 0915 off Sogne Fiord, at 61:40 N., 4:58 E.; and Bergen Harbour at 0915 where 14 M.Vs from 5000 to 2000 tons were observed at anchor. (Donibristle 1514/15 to H.Q.C.C.)

0304/15 aircraft attacked one enemy M.V. 20 miles N.N.E. of Bergen ; bombs failed to explode. (I.C. 0483/40).
0345/15 aircraft attacked 2 tankers and 1 M.V. at Oster Fiord, 10 miles N.E. Bergen. Near Misses obtained. (I.C. 0483/40).

HOME COMMANDS

Air (Contd.)

Code Names — Following allotted - Jersey, code name Monica; Gael, code name, Bertie; Rennes, code name, Tucker. (H.Q. R.A.F.F., 1255/15).

Mining

Seine Anti-Mine Net. — P.D.U.I. reports anti-mine defence net few hundred yards up stream from new pontoon bridge built as replacement of destroyed road bridge over Seine at Vernon. About 100 yards South of pontoon bridge at Les Andelys is another anti-mine defence net. (Phot. Int. Heston, 0115/15).

Floating mines — An aircraft reported sighting about 1230/15 a large number of floating mines in a line about one mile long, passing approx. N.E. and S.E. through 51:22 N., 2:0 E. (20 miles E. of North Foreland).

Shipping

Ocean Convoys — Positions 1300/16. (D.C. 2112/15). Sequence from June 23 onwards (D.T.D., 1852/15, Cancelling his 1354/7/5).

Reports — Reports of single merchant ships passing war signal and coastguard stations of no value as they cannot be checked and also cause undesirable congestion of communication system. Propose new instructions to report (a) all warships of which previous notification not received, (b) 2 or more merchant ships proceeding in company with or without escort, (c) any merchant ship approaching an undefended harbour in suspicious circumstances. (C. in C. W.A., 1934/15

Searching of Ships — Measures under consideration to guard against smuggling of arms (See Defence of U.K.)

WASHINGTON — U.S. Ship, leaving Galway a.m. 15/6. Route to U.S.A. (D.D.I.C. 0025/15).

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

2 MV's & 2 destroyers.	2 merchant vessels and 2 destroyers distant 5 miles course 180° my position 61.16 N., 4.50 E. (A/C 224 Sqdn., 0950/15).
SCHEER DEUTSCHLAND	Information from visit today to Norwegian s.s. GNEIST at Aberdeen is that ADMIRAL SHEER recently torpedoed by British is now aground at Trondheim Fjord, and DEUTSCHLAND apparently fast on rocks in another corner of the Fjord. (13 Group Intelligence 1710/15 to H.Q.F.C. Intelligence).
M.V's at Bergen	0350/15 1 large liner 6 miles N.E. Bergen and 1 large liner 11 miles N.E. Bergen (I.C. 0483/40)
	0900/15 29 merchant ships in Bergen harbour (I.C. 0483/40)
Naval Units at Trondheim and Kristiansand	Reconnaissance of Trondheim on 14th and 15th both report one B C and one cruiser 3 destroyers 3 M.V's in harbour. On 14th Photographs showed B.C. as anchored in approx position 65 degrees 26' 30" N 10 degrees 22' 30" E and one cruiser probably NURNBERG with bows ashore in approx position 63° 26' 40" 10° 21'E on 15th B C is reported as anchored W.N.W. of Monkholm Island and the cruiser apparently still with bows aground in exactly the same position as on 14th. No warships sighted in Kristiansund today 15th. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1754/15).
2 M/S at Dunkirk	2 minesweepers of BRUMME class sighted in harbour (143 of 15.I.C.0483/40) (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 2000/15).
State of Cuxhaven and Brunsbuttel	Information received that earlier air raids have damaged the harbour and a number of lock gates are broken (Air Min. D.S. 331).
Hamburg	Summary of damage caused by earlier raids. (Air Min. D.S. 331).

War Diary

15.6.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

WEATHER

	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	Variable, light or moderate.	Moderate or poor in S. good in N.	Visibility deteriorating in N.
Channel and W. Approaches	W. or S. light or moderate.	Moderate in E. good in W.	Visibility deteriorating in W.
Horns Reef	S. light.	Moderate, fog patches.	Similar.
Dutch Coast	W. light.	Moderate, fog patches.	Similar.
Norwegian Coast	S.W. light or moderate.	Moderate or poor with fog patches in S.W. good in North.	Similar.

War Diary

15.6.1940.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

GLORIOUS

Requesting number of survivors (1st S.L. to N.O.I.C. Faroes, 0224/15-)

MARI CHANDRIS

S.O.S. intercept at 0335 G.M.T. in collision, no position. Aircraft detailed to report. (C. in C., W.A. 0843/15)

JURIEMER
Overdue

Left Halagen Fiord at 1345/6 with OIL PIONEER, How long overdue and must be presumed lost. Probably sunk with OIL PIONEER at 1540/9 (A.C.O.S. 1144/15 to Admty)

(German W/T broadcast 17/6 mentions an "escort vessel" with OIL PIONEER, but does not mention sinking her)

Foreign Stations

WESTMOOR

Broken down and in tow (see South Atlantic)

H.M.S. WILLIAM
BCORESBY

M/S Trawler "has not recognised signals after June 15th today" (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1939/15)

War Diary

15.6.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French Positions

Convoys and Patrols (D.O., 2322/15)

Convoys and Patrols (D.O., 0101/15)

South Atlantic

PRETORIA CASTLE towing WESTMOOR

Your 1200/14 (WESTMOOR broken down and requiring towage) Continue to Pernambuco with WESTMOOR at best towing speed and endeavour to turn over tow to another ship in view of necessity of early arrival in square K.32 (C. in C., S.A. 0032/15 to PRETORIA CASTLE)

Sal

R.O. St. Vincent, C. Verde reports 6 Italians remaining 3 planes in hangers all mobile plant assembled at Pedro Luna. All native labour dismissed except for key men. Plane service still in operation 4/6. Reliability good (S.O. (1) Freetown 1905/15)

Lack of A/S protection for shipping

My 1656/14* There are now 390 ships on my track chart either bound for or leaving the Cape, including 2 troop convoys. I must again stress the almost complete lack of anti-submarine protection which I have at my disposal.

2 trained and 2 partially A/S trawlers at Cape Town, 3 aircraft largely armed from Naval source at Cape Town, and 4 at Durban. A small but increasing number of unarmed Ansons complete the list.

Harbours are heavily congested and at present there are 17 ships in Table Bay unable to dock owing to lack of berths. (N.O. i/c Simonstown 1324/15 to C. in C., S.A.)

* Report from Cairo that 4 Italian Submarines have been sent from Italian East Africa to Cape.

War Diary

15.6.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Policy

Turkey

H.M. Ambassador at Angora is informed by the Turkish President that Turkey intends to remain non-belligerent for the time being in view of danger of war with Russia. Turkey has so far refused H.M. Ambassador's suggestions that her Ambassador at Rome should be recalled, but stresses the continued solidarity of Turkey with the Allies. Turkish attitude is believed to be influenced by the military situation in West, Turkish unpreparedness, some disappointment at Allied assistance immediately available, and uncertainty as to Russia's attitude. (H.A. Angora 1600/15 to D.N.I.)

Attacks from Spanish Territorial Waters

Your 1150/14 and related signals. Any attack by enemy submarines delivered from Spanish territorial waters should at once be returned. (Head of M. 2341/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)

R.A.I.C. Alexandria 2049/13. There is no doubt whatever that Norwegian ship ONEANGER was torpedoed without warning. I assume this unties my hands completely as to S/M warfare on Italian shipping, particularly as to Italian Cilor from Oran. (C. in C., Med. 1445/15 to Admty)

General

British Positions

(D.C. 0732/15 to B.N.L.O. Moliere)

Movement Summary

C. in C., Med. 2341/15)

Air

Air Raids on Malta

Morning raid resulted in 3 direct hits on Fort H.M.S. ST. ANGELO with heavy bombs causing much damage but only one casualty not under cover. Two bombs on Valetta, some in Grand Harbour, and four found unexploded. Civilian casualties not yet known. (F.O.I.C. Malta 2041/15 to Admty)

Two air-raids Grand Harbour and Kalafrana Area respectively. Material damage negligible. Dockyard Civilians killed. (Governor Malta 2300/15 to W.O.) (F.O.I.C. Malta 2101/15 to Admty)

War Diary

15.6.1940.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean. Contd.

Air. Contd.

Attacks on Genoa and Spezia

9 aircraft of F.A.A. from Hyeres bombed Genoa on night 14/6. Hits were observed on hangars, power station, and Ansaldo works. French aircraft bombed Spezia night 14/6. (I.C. 0483/40)

Mining

Mines off Alexandria

The following four positions are thickly mined:-

31:20'N 29:34.5'E
31:17.5'N 29:28'E
31:24.5'N 29:36.5'E
31:32.5'N 29:46.5'E

The limits are not yet determined (I.C. 0483/40)

Enemy Intelligence

Air Comd. Spain

M.A., Madrid, reports that Spanish Air Staff fear foreign coup and have stopped all flying in Spain other than regular commercial lines. (D.C., 0411/15)

West Indies

Kamaran Perim Socotra

A.O.C. Aden cannot effectively defend these islands. Unless fully equipped with all forms of defence I agree with A.O.C. Aden that they are best left as they are. (C. in C., E.I. 0459/15 to Admty.)

War Diary

15.6.1940.
Saturday

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Home Commands

FIDELITAS DRESDNER } Left Corunna 15/6 and arrived Ferrol 15/6 (Guyat, Coruna 1320/15 to Turkish)

Foreign Stations:

TAKO — Addition to potential armed merchantmen Singapore. (C.C.S., Singapore, 0502Z/15)

FRANCO MARCELLI — Tanker, has arrived at Pernambuco with full cargo of Fuel Oil from Aruba. (C. in C., S.A. 1259/15)

TERESA SCHIAFFINO — Arrived Teneriffe 14/6)S.O.I. Gibraltar 1039/15)

CHERCA — Arrived Las Palmas 10/6 (S.O.I. Gibraltar 1032/15)

ASQUITAS — Arrived Ceara 15/6 (N.S.O.I. Monte Video 1309/15 to D.N.I.)

FORTUNATA — 2715 tons, homeward bound from New York with 3000 tons of T.N.T. has been sunk by the French. Crew landed at Teneriffe. 15/6)

War Diary

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Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

ANDANIA — Torpedoed 2330/15 S.E. of Iceland, abandoned 0330/16 (D.C. 0810/16) Sank at 0700/16 (ANDANIA 3330/15, 0106/16, 0331/16 DERBYSHIRE 0052/16, Donibristle 1905/16, D.O.D. (H) 1100/16) Survivors 50 officers 300 ratings in trawler SKALLAGRIMER (FORESTER 2030/16) 62.36'N 15. 9'W (I.C. 0483/40)

CHALATROS — Reported sunk in convoy (? date) No details received yet. (I.C. 0483/40)

Submarines Reported

0026 — 50.37'N., 08.44' W., reliable fix at 2305/14. ship torpedoed, submarine probably following on surface. FOWEY and SANDWICH ordered to attack. (C. in C. W.A. 0026/15)

0455 — By A/C 52.52 N., 05.38 W (A/C 612 Sqdn., 0455/15)

1525 — Enemy Unit possibly Italian U-Boat at Scarborough 217° (D.D.I.C. 2002/15 to C. in C., W.A.)

1508 — 50.20'N. 11.30'W. D/F report. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1843/15 to C. in C., W.A.) HIGHLANDER informed (C. in C., W.A. 2001/15)

0527 — HMKT 5332 aircraft dropped bombs on suspicious oil patches with air bubbles rising from them in track of convoy. (H.Q. C.C. 1805/13)

1157 — 48.30'N 14.28'W (250 miles S.W. Cape Clear) CANTON reported p.s. doubtful. CANTON 1057/15)

2339 — 62.36'N 15.9'W (200 miles S.E. of Reykjavik) by ANDANIA

1209 — 47.N 12.W Position indefinite A.I. (I.C. 0483/40)

War Diary

15.6.1940.
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Attacked

0500 — Gulf of Sollum (Capt. S.I. to PARTHIAN)

1157 — Periscope 119 49.N 15'W 26 doubtful (CANTON to A.C.N.A. 1157/15)

1508 — 50.30'N 11.30'W. Unidentified unit probably U-Boat. (D.D.I.C. 1843/15 to C. in C., W.A.)

0445 — 347° Cape Wrath 78 miles By aircraft two 100 lb. H.E. bombs fell a few yards from periscope. Estimate that submarine was definitely hit, and 2 large brown patches and a pale blue patch appeared on surface about 7 minutes afterwards. (Air Min. D.D. 332)

Mediterranean

Submarines Reported

French Consul Genl. Tetuan reports Italian submarine at Ceuta is damaged. Probably the one attacked by WATCHMAN 0400/13 and which attacked VEDETTE 0131/14 from Territorial Waters. Request representations as to internment. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1616/15 to Admty)

Later reported to be leaving Ceuta to-night (I.C. 0483/40)

2035 — Submarine at 38.54' 40 W (Oran W/T 2035/15 to all ships)

1525 — D.F. at 1525 B.S.T., possibly Italian U-Boat (D.D.I.C. 2002/15) Bearing Scarborough 217° (1) (F.O.C.N.A. 2144/15)

Submarines Attacked

Submarine sunk — VOYAGEUR, H.M.A.S., killed a submarine off Alexandria night of 13th June. (C., in C., Med. 1453/15 to A.C.N.B)

0500 — Italian U-Boat attacked 31.35'N 25.11'E (Gulf of Sollum) (I.C. 0483/40)

War Diary

16.6.40.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT

Raiders.

NEWCASTLE and SUSSEX are proceeding to patrol along the latitude of Scapa to the westward between 15° W. and 20° W. to intercept possible enemy raiders breaking out.

A/S Tr. JUNIPER lost

A/S trawler JUNIPER, which left the Narvik area 6/6 in company with OIL PIONEER is now overdue and must be presumed lost. She may be the "modern U-boat chaser" claimed by the Germans 9/6 to have been sunk with OIL PIONEER.

Iceland

1000 Canadian troops in EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA escorted by EMERALD arrived at Reykjavik at 1700/16.

Submarine off Iceland

A Coastal Command aircraft reported a submarine 7 miles west of Sudrunaes (near Reykjavik) at 1830/16.

Mining

A number of raids took place in the areas North Foreland, the Downs, Beachy Head, St. Catherines Point and Poole, which were all considered to have been laid by minelaying aircraft. Magnetic mines may have been laid by enemy aircraft in the Downs and Poole areas during the night 15/16. Both areas were closed early this morning. (I.C. 0483/40). Poole was reopened in the evening.

The 20th Flotilla, REVIOT BANK and PLOVER completed further extension of the East Coast mine barrier at 0600/16.

Convoy U.S.3

The third Australian Troop Convoy arrived in the Clyde 1420/16.

France

Admiral Ouest reports that magnetic mines may have been ~~laid~~ off Brest during the night 15/16, and the port was closed early this morning. Meantime, Quiberon is being used. Caen and Cherbourg are open.

St. Nazaire was bombed at 1000/16.

ARETHUSA and BERKELEY have been sent to Le Verdon and Bordeaux in readiness to embark the British Embassy staff and other Allied officials if necessary.

The British Govt. this evening offered to conclude an act of Union with France, with the object of assisting her.

SITUATION REPORT

Air Attack on Trondheim

Air reconnaissance of Trondheim at 1450/15 reported one cruiser beached, SCHARNHORST and 2 destroyers and 2 merchant vessels. One of the aircraft did not return. Bad weather prevented the reconnaissance and attack arranged for today on these ships.

Italian Hostilities

Air raids on Malta

Two air attacks were made on Malta today. Apart from 1 hit on a slipway little damage was caused. 3 Gladiator aircraft did gallant work in scattering formations. The bombers were escorted by fighters for the first time. The 4 Gladiators at Malta are being conserved as much as possible but cannot be expected to last long under present pressure, and the Governor has asked for some Hurricanes to be sent.

Submarines to leave Malta

The C. in C., Med. has informed the French C. in C. Med. that it is not practicable to maintain submarines at Malta, on account of air attacks. He proposes to base the submarines from Malta, on Alexandria.

Mersa Matruh bombed

The Italians bombed Mersa Matruh heavily but ineffectively. Sollum and Sidi Barrani were also bombed.

A reconnaissance of Tobruk observed the SAN GIORGIO still aground.

War Diary

16.6.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

The Netherlands Govt. in London have ordered the Netherlands East Indies Govt. to observed neutrality.
Dutch Naval C. in C., is perplexed by this decision. (Consul General Batavia Capt. on Staff Singapore 0431/16 to C. in C. China.)

Defence of U.K.

Request War Office be informed that 9.2 Battery at East Weare should be brought into state of readiness in case of emergency. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1208 /16 to Admty)

Port Schemes

To be prepared fro Weymouth and Portland, Exmouth, Teignmouth, Torquay, Brixham, Dartmouth, Plymouth, Fowey, Falmouth C's in C to report and initiate action at any other ports considered necessary between Swanage and Land's End (D. of L.D. 1845/16)

Movements

DIHARD

Hospital ship 17 miles S. of St. Catherine's at 1700 northbound (VIVACIOUS 1715/16)

Submarines

Positions and movements 0600/17 (V.A (S) 1859/16)

Operations

North Sea. Anti-Raider Patrol

NEWCASTLE to take SUSSEX under his orders and proceed with moderate despatch to patrol in latitude 59° 00'N., between 16.00' W and 20. 00'W., using aircraft to cover as large an area as possible. Object to intercept possible enemy raiders breaking out. Maintain patrol at 20 knots zigzagging (C. in C., H.F., 0109/16)

War Diary

16.6.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operation Ariel

CLANFERGUSON, MARGOT, GOVERNOR, TEIRESIAS are to be sailed for St. Nazaire with all despatch. (C. in C., W.A. to S.T.O's Avonmouth and Newport, 0044/16)

Admiral Ouest reports at 0020/16 that entrance into Brest is probably mined. (C. in C., W.A. 0254/16)

Brest closed owing to mines. Proceed with E.F. 2. to Quiberon Bay. Detach one destroyer to patrol off Brest and divert to Quiberon Bay other British ships. (C. in C. W.A. to WOLVERINE, 0439/16)

Following received from French Admiralty: Le Goulet de Brest. The channel of La Coubre has been magnetically mined. I have given orders to Cherbourg to send six sweeping outfits and place them under orders of Admiral Ouest for use on the Atlantic Coast. I ask for British assistance (a) for Brest by agreement with C.W.A. and (b) for Cherbourg by agreement with C. in C., Portsmouth in case of enemy mining activity at this port and the sweeping requirements remaining being insufficient. (D.O.D. (H) to C. in C. W.A., C.in C., Portsmouth, /16)

Brest expected to be open this afternoon 16/6. Ships routed to Brest act accordingly keeping outside 50 fathom line until given permission to enter (C. in C., W.A. 1459/16)

At present numbers for evacuation from La Pallice total 2,800 all ranks including A.A.I.M.N.S. and R.A.F., all from vicinity of Marseilles. Eagle cannot give date for embarkation. Extra parties will only be embarked La Pallice if other ports become unusable. (L.of C. to War Office 1520/16)

Some 300 Belgians including ministers and diplomats have decided to leave France and are proceeding to Nantes. They should be given assistance and passage arranged to U.K. (D.O.D. (H) 1602/16)

Admiralty may use Channel Islands for transhipment troops disembarked from St. Malo in event existing measures proving inadequate. Comdr. Howard Johnston sees you today to ask you arrange all possible boats ready proceed to St. Malo. (War Office to Generals, Jersey and Guernsey, 1715/16)

War Diary

16.6.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operation Ariel- Contd.

Use destroyers to ferry troops to transports if necessary. D.9. inform St. Nazaire. (C. in C., W.A. 2013/16)

7 British Oilers and 6 others all full are at Quiberon Bay. (WOLVERINE, 2130/16)

Proceed St. Nazaire with all despatch (MACKAY to VANOC, 2141/16)

Sailed HIGHLANDER 1912 for St. Nazaire (A.C.W.A. 2144/16)

Sailed from Fowey for Brest 2020 G.M.T. trawlers LADY ESTELLE, CAPSTONE, SOUTHERNESS, AVON, OSWALDIAN (C. in C., W.A. 2227/16)

HIGHLANDER has been diverted for other duties. Take HARVESTER under your orders and continue to sweep until further orders. (A.C.W.A., 2236/16 to PUNJABI)

Sailed for Brest 1945/16 G.M.T. motor barges PENIE JEP, SPITHEAD, LEWIS CASTLE, LEONARD PIPER, CASBY. (C. in C., W.A. 2253/16)

TRELAWNEY, BRITTANY, CITY of EVANSVILLE and PORT MONTREAL are to be sailed for Loire via Quiberon Bay a.m. 17/6. (C. in C., W.A. 2354/16 to D.S.T.D's Avonmouth and Falmouth)

PRINCESS JOSEPHINE CHARLOTTE is to be sailed for Brest via Quiberon Bay (C. in C., W.A. 0014/17 to S.T.D. Falmouth)

ARETHUSA to prepare to evacuate Embassy etc.

My 1519/15 ARETHUSA to be prepared to evacuate staffs of British Embassy, of British Missions with Polish and Belgian Govts., of the Dominions Legations, and of Polish and Belgian Govts. if this becomes necessary. If ARETHUSA remains at Le Verdon, BERKELEY is to remain at Bordeaux. (D.O.D.H 0002/16)

BERKELEY

Your 1229/15 Intend to arrive 1045 (BERKELEY 1013/16)

Report earliest you can arrive Le Verdon. Utmost despatch necessary (D.O.D.H 1642/16 to ARETHUSA)

Your 1642/16. 2030 today Sunday (ARETHUSA 1716/16 to Admty.)

Arrived Bordeaux 0130 (BERKELEY 0215/16 to Admty)

GALATEA

Sailing has been postponed but she remains at short notice for this movement. (D.D.O.D. 2322/16 to ARETHUSA)

War Diary

16.6.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations, France

ANTWERP — Transport with 1100 troops in position 150 50.N 3.W 23 miles (VERNIX 0115/16)

ETTRIC
KONIGEN EMMA
LADY OF MAN — Proceed to Quiberon Bay forthwith to embark personnel from Loire (C. in C., W.A. 1926/16)

Use Destroyers to ferry troops to transport if necessary D.9. inform St. Nazaire. (C. in C. W.A. 2013/16 to Capt. D. 9.)

Norway

Patrol off Fro Havet — TRUANT leaves May Island 2300/16 to patrol off Fro Havet (V.A. (S) 1901/16)

Iceland

Plans — Enemy to be prevented from establishing bases for light naval forces and aircraft in Iceland. Steps being taken-details.
Further additions to forces needed, including coast defence and A A guns. 9 more patrol vessels or trawlers required.
Aircraft required: 6 flying boats, 2 landplane squadrons.
Considerable work and time taken up with Government and internal security problems.
(Alabaster 0229/16)

A/S Protection needed — 1830/16 and T.O.R. 2058 from aircraft duty C and my own observation consider it essential that further A/S protection be provided for REYKJAVIK immediately in view of presence of British ship with troops on board. Suggest that local small craft be requisitioned and organized to supplement inner (waters) if necessary with Icelandic personnel and other energetic measures taken locally. (EMERALD 2130/16)

War Diary

16.6. 1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

AIR

British Air Activity

Recognition Signals — From Air Ministry 3811 15th/6. In future the giving of incorrect recognition signals of the period will be treated as hostile act and aircraft concerned will be engaged unless subsequently clearly recognised as friendly. Fighter pilots will act on same principle although responsibility for recognising aircraft as enemy before opening fire will continue to rest with fighter pilots. 1825/15 (R.A.F.H.A.S., 1030/16 to Bizrtrad, Hyeres.

E- B Boats attacked — 3 aircraft of Coastal Command attacked 3 E-boats in 52.0'N 4.5'E(off Hook of Holland) at 2100/16. Severe A/A fire was encountered and the aircraft made no hits. (I.C., 0484/40, D.C.N.S)

Malta — To be additional to Sullom Voe and to be left in state capable of being used by Walrus aircraft at about 3 days notice (A.C.O.S. 1213/16)

Prohibited Area — Along E and S coasts should be extended to Lizard in view of reports of enemy aircraft flying over coasts of Devon and Cornwall by day and night. (C. in C. W.A. 1914/16)

Enemy Air Activity

Recent information shows enemy aircraft have been passing over coasts of Devon and S. Cornwall both by day and night. Propose that prohibited area be extended from Portland to Lizard and all Training Flights to be prohibited at least during night. (C. in C., W.A. 1914/16 to Admty)

ss. TYNWALD — British (2370 tons) attacked by aircraft about 2225/16 when about 5 miles S. of St. Catherine's Point, I. if W. (TYNWALD: Read. 2227/16)

St. Nazaire — Enemy aircraft carried out bombing raids on St. Nazaire at 1000 and 1730 (I.C. 0484/40)

War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Gironde — One pair LL trawlers to be sailed with all despetch to the entrance to the Gironde. (D.M.S., 1416/16 to C. in C., W.A.)

St. Nazaire — Entrance to St. Nazaire and Loire prohibited except to demagnetized ships (Marine Brest 1520/16 to Admty)

Brest Open — Brest reported clear of mines (C. in C., W.A. 1934/16)

Gironde — Le Goulet de Brest and La Coubre channel River Gironde have been magnetically mined. (D.O.D.H. 1652/16 to C. in C., W.A.)
BERKELEY to investigate La Coubre and report (D.D.D.H. 1447/16) One pair LL Trawlers to be sailed with all despatch to Gironde (D.M.S. 1416/16) It may become necessary for us to do all minesweeping at Ports mentioned (B.N.L.O. H.Q. L of C. 1235/16 to C. in C., W.A.)

Sailed 1612 for Gironde LL Trawlers INVERFORTH and GEORGETTE (A.C.W.A. 17282/16 to Admty)

Le Verdon — 3 aircraft dropped mines near Le Verdon at 0010/16. Not known if any dropped between Le Verdon and Bordeaux. (BERKELEY 1810/16 to Admty)

Gironde Closed — Entrance to Gironde forbidden (F.O.C.N.A. 1826, 16 to Adty.)

Poole Closed — Poole closed (R.N.O. Poole 0120/16)

Downs Closed — Downs closed owing to enemy minelaying (N.O.I/(Ramsgate 0055/16)
2 Magnetic mines found in the Downs in searche(channel E of Deal. Danger area declared out- side Ramsgate. (I.C. 0484/40)

Poole Opened — Channel swept, Port of Poole now open (R.N.O. Poole 2115/16)

War Diary

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Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Main German Units

SCHARNHORST at Trondheim 15/6.
Cruiser probably NURNBERG at Trondheim 15/6
ADMIRAL SCHEER undocked at Wilhelmshaven 6/6.
LUTZOW believed at Kiel badly damaged
Cruiser KOLN possibly at Hamburg repairing.
Cruiser EMDEN repairing probably at Kiel.

Unlocated

GNEISENAU
Cruisers HIPPER and PRINZ EUGEN, both reported at Trondheim 10th June, 1 reported still there 12th June.
Cruiser LEIPZIG
Aircraft Carrier GRAF ZEPPELIN

(D.N.I.C. 1701/16 to A.I.G. 45)

Unknown enemy unit reported at 2143/16 in aprox 58.50 N., 3.35' E., 70' W of Stavanger (I.C., 0484/40)

3 E-Boats

Three E-Boats at 52.N 4.05'E Course 090 (A/C 2100/16 and 2115/16 to Bircham Newton)

Tanker Sunk

One screened ~~oil~~ transport sunk off lister 16/6. Screening vessels will be towing sweep wires. Enemy convoy route passes through SALMONS patrol position. One screened oil tanker passed northward 14/6 (TETRARCH 2301/18

Shipping

Suspicious Vessel

Master BLAIRSPEY reports unknown vessel believed Dutch acting suspiciously showing red light in convoy. Left convoy off the Stack at 0040/16 and proceeded to Liverpool. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2311/16)

BRITA THORDEN

Expected to sail Petsamo for America 18/6 with survivors of HUNTER etc., to be intercepted (D.O.D.(H) 1251/14, VANP 1528/14, D.N.I. 1333/15, 1931/15, VANP 1155/16, 1215/16 D.O.D.(H) 1420/16)

War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Miscellaneous

WASHINGTON — Left Galway for New York 15/6 with evacuated Americans. Important she should proceed without any form of interuption. (Hd. of M. 1055/16)

French Ships Captured — Germans claim to have captured following ships under construction in the Naval dockyard at Rouen, Le Havre and Dunkirk:- 2 Reconnaissance vessels, 2 minesweepers, 5 tankers, 9 submarines. (Berlin W/T 1621/16)

Scapa — State of Defences (R.A. Scapa 1314/16 to Admty)

WEATHER

Area	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	North N.W., Moderate South N.W., Moderate	Very good, poor to Moderate, fog patches.	Similar Improving slowly
Channel	Northerly light to moderate	Good to very good	Similar
Western Approaches	Northerly, moderate Fresh locally	Very Good	Similar
W. Coast	Light, variable	Moderate to good.	N.W. Moderate Visibility Mod. to poor.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

8 in. cruisers — In addition to convoys B.C. and C.M. other troop movements between U.K. and India are under consideration, and it is therefore improbable that we shall be able to station any 8 inch cruisers in South Atlantic in the near future. (D.O.D.(F) 1643/16 to C. in C.S.A.)

Security measures shipping — Security measures with regard to shipping at Freetown (C. in C., S.A. 1023/16).

Convoy B.C. — Sailing of reconstructed Convoy B.C. from Durban to Freetown as follows (C. in C. S.A. 1305/16).

Mediterranean

Policy

Submarines — Not practicable to maintain submarines at Malta, on account of present air attacks. I propose to base on Alexandria force submarines from Malta, and patrol in progress. Asking French C. in C. Med. try consider removal of line separating areas 1 and 2 down to 15° E. and submarines from Malta to be turned over to C. in C., Med.'s Command (C. in C. Med. 0031/16 to French Naval C. in C., Med.)

Spain — Admiral Africa reports Spain has abandoned neutrality and adopted policy of non-belligerency which is understood to mean more hostile attitude and possible use of Spanish bases by Italy. Extreme vigilance and care should be taken to respect territorial waters which extend 3 sea miles. Message ends. Request confirmation (C. in C. S.A. 1915/16)

Neutral Ships at Alexandria with Cargoes for Neutral ports in Mediterranean. — Policy as to Adty. 1554/15 (C. in C., Med. 1501/16 to Adty.) List of (R.A. Alexandria 1414/16 to Adty.

War Diary

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Operations

French destroyer sunk Transocean Copyright 0245/16 states that on date not given Italian destroyer CALATAFIMI engaged 4 French destroyers and sank one of TARTU class.

British Positions At 1300/16. (D.C. 0755/16).

Operations against Balearic Is. Italy demands use of Spanish ports Report from Spanish Supreme General Staff that General Gambara has been selected to command Italian expeditionary force to Spain and that operations are to be conducted against Balearic Is. C.2. Above conditional on events. N.A. Madrid has confirmation from 3 reliable sources that Italy has 3 times asked for use of certain Spanish ports including Balearic Is. and has been refused. Second occasion was by Gambara just before leaving, third occasion was on 12/6 (N.A. Madrid 1217/16)

Durazzo Split reports 6 large Italian transports discharged about 14000 troops at Durazzo 11/6 (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1231/16).

Absence of enemy aircraft Your 0314/15. (a) GLOUCESTER and LIVERPOOL sighted by one aircraft at Tobruk and were shadowed. No other hostile aircraft seen, though Fleet spent 12 hours within 100 miles of North African coast. (b) CALYPSO may have been sunk by one. Two contacts and one sighting sight report close to Alexandria on return. Not known if genuine. (C) No. (C. in C., Med. 0025/16 to Adty.)

Shipping

Special Warning 88. Italian Govt. announces that within thirty miles from hostile coasts all M/Vs bound for hostile ports will navigate at their own risk; but this does not affect transit of neutral ships across the Strait constituting oblige passages for navigation. (Radio Washington 0435/16 to All Ships).

War Diary

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Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Air.

Raids on Malta. Fighters needed.

2 air raids on Malta today. 0600-0720 G.M.T. and 1235-1306 G.M.T. Damage (slight). Forces engaged. "Institution of escort by enemy although compliment to our Gladiators emphasises effect provision of Hurricanes likely to have. 4 Gladiators being conserved as much as possible but cannot be expected to last long under present pressure". (H.Q. Malta 1715/16, F.O.I.C. Malta 2055/16, Governor Malta 1135/16).

Mining

Brindisi

A British minefield has been laid south of Brindisi.

East Indies.

Australian Destroyers

Subject to your views it is considered that PARRAMATTA and YARRA both A/S fitted, should join Red Sea Force, thus making it possible to release DERBY and HUNTLEY for service in Medit. should circumstances require. (Md. of M., to C. in C., E.I. 0459/16).

Kamaran Aerodrome

Obstructed, but removable on notice given. (F.O.4 C.S. 05302/16).

British Consul General from Addis Ababa and Staff and French Consul General are at Jibuti. If possible DERBY should embark them and land them at Aden. (Md. of M. 1655/16 to H.O.I.C. Aden).

America and West Indies

BEARN
JEANNE D'ARC

Left Halifax early am/16 (D.C.N.S. 277).

VILLARPEROSA

Italian. May leave Wilmington for another port on or after 17/6. Search northwards as far as Wilmington and then patrol off Cape Fear (C. in C., A.W.I. 1232/16 to DIOMEDE).

War Diary

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Mediterranean

INGO	Arrived Zelenika, Yugoslavia, 15/6 and expected to leave on 20/6 with bauxite for Trieste. (S.O.(i) Alexandria 1231/16)

China

AUGSBERG	At Dairen. German Captain refused to hand over ship to Dutch representative and legal proceedings appear to be impending. (Postal censorship, I.C., 0484/40)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

NICOCO OBERO	6003 tons, reported in Press to have been captured by the French. (Unconfirmed) (Ship was at Marseilles 6/6, homeward bound)
ADIGE (1006 tons) POLONICE (1375 tons)	reported in Press to have been taken into Malta 11/6 and 12/6 respectively, and seized. (Unconfirmed) (POLINICE was on passage from Varna to Rhodes, left Varna 4/6. Previous movements of ADIGE not known)
AEQUITAS	Arrived Ceara 15th June with coal for Rio de Janeiro (N.A. Rio 1219/16)
VILLAPEROSA	See A & W.I.
FUSIJAMA	Arrived Bangkok midnight 11/12/6 I.C., 0484/4
ADA	Arrived Kobe 13/6 "
APOLLO	Arrived Las Palmas 12/6 "
BALENA PESCESPADA SANDELLA	Trawlers, arrived Horter, Azores from Newfoundland. "
VILLAPEROSA	At Wilmington, U.S.A. may leave 17/6 "
SALVATORE PRIMO	Reported at Teneriffe 16/6 "
EOLO	Reported at Huelva 16/6 "
RAFFIO	Reported at Cartagena, Spain 16/6 "
LE TREMARIE	Reported at Valencia 16/6 "
ERERA	Previously reported Corunna, now reported arrived Fiume on 10/6 "

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

JAMES STOVE sunk — Norwegian tanker (8215 tons) on charter to Anglo-Saxons Petroleum Co. sunk by Italian submarine at 0530/16 in position 12.35 N., 45:03 E., (21 miles S. from Aden) near end of old swept channel. Crew believed safe. 15 minutes warning was given No S.O.S. was made. (C. in C., E.I. 0636Z/16, S.N.O. Red Sea 1038Z/16)

WELLINGTON STAR sunk — Torpedoed 1108/16 at 42:39 N., 17:01 W. (245 miles W. of C. Finisterre) WELLINGTON STAR 1110/16) ARABIS and CALENDULA to close position (C. in C., W.A. 1247/16). Reported sunk. I.C., 0484/40 says 268° Finisterre 345'.

ATHEL PRINCE (torpedoed 12/6) — Arrived at Falmouth (? date)

EARLSPARK (torpedoed 12/6) — ENCHANTRESS picked up 32 survivors 39:47 N., 11:18 W. Captain and 5 of crew lost. Torpedoed 1115/12 in 41:26 N., 11:24 W. having left convoy 0630/12. Large submarine was seen. (ENCHANTRESS 2045/16).

BRALANTA sunk — Norwegian (9608 tons) sunk 0500/16 by submarine off Aden. Crew saved. (D.C.N.S. 277).

Submarines Reported

2330/15 — A.F. message 62:36 N., 15:09 W. at 2330/15. (D.C., 0046/16).

0050 — (see ANDANIA, torpedoed 15/6). Submarine still in the vicinity (ANDANIA, 0050/16).

0659 — Off Bergen. Position indefinite. A.1 (O.I.C. 0483).

1910 — 43:00 N., 14:00 W. D/F report. Unknown Unit probably U-boat. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2030/16 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C., W.A., 2053/16, 2147/10).

1830 — Am over enemy submarine at 282 Sudraenes 7. (Aireraft 204 Sqdn., N.O.I.C. Iceland 2042/16)

2000 — 51:18 N. 2:50 E. (off Ostend)(Aireraft H.Q. Chatham 2145/16).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

2143 — 58:50 N., 3:35 E. Unknown Enemy Unit. Reliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2208/16).

Estimated Dispositions for 16/6/40

3 operating in Western Approaches.
1 operating in Finisterre Area.
1 outward bound, Southwest Bantry about 1600 hours.
1 homeward bound North North Rona about dawn.
1 about 54 degrees North 13 degrees West.
(H.Q.C.C. 1805/15).

Submarines Attacked

2200/15 — A/S trawler ARAB reports having made depth charge attack on suspicious contact at 2200, position from 5 A buoy 149° 2.6 miles. Much oil, position marked by Dan buoy. (C. in C., Nore 0035/16). 52:26 N., 1:56 E., 110° Lowestoft 7'. (I.C., 0484/40).

Mediterranean

Submarines Attacked

Ceuta — Aerial reconnaissance conformed presence of a submarine in Ceuta am/16. F.O.C.N.A. considers she was attacked and driven in, damaged, by our A/S patrol, while attempting to pass the Straits (D.C.N.S. 277).

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

ANDANIA — (Torpedoed 15/6) Icelandic ship SKALLAGRIMUR in position 62. N., 14.36'W., asked to close ANDANIA (FORFAR, 0156/16)

BRIKA — Ashore Haisborough Sand, North Middle, requires assistance. (BRIKA 0719/16)

Foreign Stations

THORSHOLM — My 0958/16 THORSHOLM arrived Cape Town (S.O. (i) Capetown 0908/18)

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Gibraltar — Arrangements made for 1200 women to be evacuated to Casablanca pm/17 in British transport MOHAMED ALI EL KEBIR. No other shipping available (F.O.C.N.A. 2310/16).

Defence works proceeding as quickly as possible (Governor and C. in C., reed. from W.O. 0805/17).

South Atlantic

Italian Cable to be cut. — Your 1820/13. Instruct CABLE ENTERPRISE to cut Italian cable northward of Fernando Noronha. Cable and Wireless informed. (Hd. of M. to C. in C., S.A. 0100/16) Reply. Re N.S.O. (1) Freetown 1907/15 suggest NORSEMAN cut this cable observing that she arrives Pernambuco 17/6 (C. in C., S.A. 1302/16).

Troop Convoys — It is desired to expedite to the utmost arrival in U.K. of regular troops now in Convoy B.C. Request you will consider sailing ASKA KARANJA and KENYA onwards from Durban without waiting for other ships to complete transfer of troops, and dividing the convoy into a fast [redacted] group consisting of ORION, REINA DEL PACIFICO and STRATHEDEN, and a slow group, with one 8-in. cruiser as escort for each group. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., S.A., 0045/16).

Offer by S.A. — Re letter 5/1/40. Adty. suggest one or more 72 ft. Local Defence boats be built at Durban and shipped to U.K. "Delay in replying is regretted". (Hd. of M. 1620/16).

Spanish Patrols — 18 June Spanish patrols appear to have been established near Algeciras and Ceuta (S.O.(I) Gib. 1229/18).

C. in C., S.A. 1915/16 — See Mediterranean.

Australian troop convoys — Diversion to Cape route has made it necessary for Adty. to assume control of escort arrangements for them, both in order to meet requirements over whole convoy route and because only Adty. can handle political questions which arise with Dominion Govts.

SITUATION REPORT

France

At 1230 the French Premier, Marshal Petain, announced that the French would try to cease fighting and that last night he had asked Germany for terms for "putting an end to hostilities."

At 2130 the French Foreign Minister, M. Baudouin, stated in a broadcast that although France had asked on what condition peace could be made, she had not abandoned her arms, and that the French would sacrifice their existence rather than their honour.

Plans to withdraw the whole B.E.F. from France if necessary were made on 15/6 from Cherbourg, St. Malo, Brest, St. Nazaire and La Pallice. These plans were put into operation early on 17/6; and by 1200/17 33,790 men had been landed in England.

Evacuation figures up to midnight 17/18/June were as follows:-

41,770	fit.
732	wounded.
71	guns.
595	vehicles.

A large number of H.M.Ships and transports are taking part in the operation. 14 ships were to leave the Loire pm/17 fro the Falmouth area and S.S. MADURA with 180 Embassy Staff and 800 refugees was due to leave for the Bristol Channel. At 1800/17 23,245 had been landed in the Portsmouth area alone.

All British troops, about 30,000 in number were evacuated from Brest by 2300/17. Evacuation was not seriously interfered with, except at St. Nazaire which was continuously bombed during 17/6. S.S. LANCASTRIA (16,243 tons) was sunk at 1600; she had troops on board, which were transferred to ORONSAY; the number of casualties is not yet known. ORONSAY was hit at 1350 but left for Plymouth at 1830. H.M.S. WESTCOTT was holed at 1500 in collision with S.S. NYROCA and can only steam 8 knots. S.S. CHAMPLAIN (French 28,124 tons) was sunk by mine or torpedo off the entrance to La Pallice at 0945/17: she was not taking part in the operations.

Entrances to the Loire and St. Nazaire are open to demagnetised ships. The Gironde and Brestare temporarily closed (0715/17) Caen is closed.

Havre

It appears that a German Naval Authority has been established at Havre (I.C., 0484/40).

SITUATION REPORT

Aircraft attack on Enemy Destroyers off Norderney

An aircraft of Coastal Command sighted 6 stationary destroyers off Norderney at 2300/17 and attacked with 4 bombs. The pilot estimated a hit on one destroyer.

Abortive raid on Trondheim

12 aircraft left Shetlands at 0930/17 to attack enemy naval forces at Trondheim, but were all obliged to return owing to bad weather, except 1 aircraft which reconnoitred Sogne and Oster fiords, north of Bergen. 2 M.Vs were attacked at 1015, without success.

Enemy Air Activity

On 17/6 the main effort of the German Long Range Bomber force was concentrated against shipping off Brest and the mouth of the Loire.

Aircraft brought down by ships

Analysis of ships' report shows that during the evacuation of Dunkirk ships engaged destroyed 35 enemy aircraft and at least 20 others were seen to be damaged and in distress, between 0300/27/5 and 2000/1/6.

Mining

The Thames Estuary outer searched channel was reopened.
There were a number of air riads during the night 16/17 between Dover and Portland. It is considered they were made by minelaying aircraft (D.C.N.S. 277) 3 aircraft mines were dropped in Weymouth Bay. Portland was temporarily closed but was reopened during the forenoon. Two magnetic mines were exploded off Poole.

Italian Hostilities

The Italians bombed Sidi Barrani twice and Bug Bug once (Medit. Coast near Libyan frontier) Malta was bombed 4 times. There were no casualties and little damage.

On 16/6 and night 16/17 Blenheims bombed El Aden. El Uhubbi was bombed 16/6. On the night 16/17 naval oil tanks at Tobruk were bombed.

~~C. in C. Med. has given orders that submarines are to sink Italian tankers at sight without warning.~~

War Diary

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SITUATION REPORT

Italian Hostilities (Contd.)

Air Raids on Malta

Malta was raided 4 times today, Ta Kali aerodrome and the water reservoir being amongst the objectives attacked. There were no casualties and little damage. Gladiators attacked and hit one enemy aircraft several times.

Enemy units off Cyprus

4 enemy light craft were reported N.E. of Cyprus at noon/17. Forces were despatched to positions west and south of Cyprus to intercept them.

Submarine off Malta

DIAMOND dropped ~~aircraft~~ d.c's. on a submarine contact off the Grand Harbour, Malta early am/17. F.O.I.C. Malta considers the attack successful.

U-Boat Campaign

U-boats are at present operating against our trade routes in the Atlantic and Western Approaches on a scale equal to their maximum at any time during the war. This scale of attack will require all their larger submarines and probably several smaller ones to maintain it. If maintained, this would indicate that the maximum number of u-boats available to take part in seaborne invasion at any time would be a majority of the small ones (say about 20)(J.I.C. Summary No.43).

U-boats were reported today off Iceland, Finisterre, Ushant and Malta.

War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Portsmouth — Military defence very weak on land side, especially when Naval Battalion withdrawn at end of this month. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1353/17 to Admty)

Newhaven / Littlehampton — Block-ships now in place as Gate Vessels at both ports (C. in C., Portsmouth 1917/17 to Admty)

Invasion — Reported that 6000,000 Italian Troops are being moved to Germany for use against U.K., also 400 to 500 aircraft.

The use of these Troops in this way is considered most unlikely, but the aircraft might be so used. (J.I.C. Report)

Orkneys — Admty. 1615/10. 2 Additional blockships required. Table cloth not arriving. Other protection against E-Boats (A.C.O.S. 1150/17)

Harwich — Request you will take steps to meet military wishes with regard to guarding or closing entrances to Rivers Crouch, Blackwater, Colne, Stour, Orwell and Hamford Water. (Hd. of M. to F.O.I.C, Harwich, 1623/17)

Boston — Propose to block Boston Harbour entrance and remove buoyage in Lynn and Freeman Channels forthwith. (F.O. Humber, 1614/17)

Poole — SS EMPIRE SENTINEL and TYR detailed as emergency blockships. (D.L.D. 2113/17)

3-mile limit for Shipping — C.S.O.I., Coast Defence, Eastern Command, represents difficulties from British and Foreign ships cruising past coastal batteries by day at 300 yards. Suggests all shipping be ordered to keep 3 miles from coast. Concur in this proposal. (C. in C., Nore, 2007/17)

Troon / Ayr — Proposal to appoint R.N.O's to Irvine, Troon and Ayr. Request report. Appointments to Inverness, Buckie and Macduff are being made. D. of L.D. to C. in C., Rosyth, 1319/17)

War Diary

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Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K. Contd.

West Coast — Proposal to appoint R.N.O's to west coast (list of 20, from Strangford and Greenore to Teignmouth and Exmouth) Request report. Appointments to Torquay and Fishguard are being made. (D. of L.D. to C. in C. W.A. 1315/17)

Minelaying Policy — C.in C., H.F's views (C. in C., H.F. 2251/17) See Operations Volume.

Movements

ARK ROYAL — Sailed from Scapa at 1500 screened by FARLESS, FAULKNOR, and ESCAPADE (F.O.C.C.S 1700/17 to Admty)

ARK ROYAL, HOOD } — Are to be sailed for Gibraltar as soon as possible proceeding with despatch. (D.O.D. H. 2000/17 to C. in C. H.F.)

REVENGE — To proceed Devonport for docking and short refit. Is required for futher service on 5/7. (D.O.D. (F) 2248/17)

Submarines — Positions and Move,ents. (V.A.S. 1837/17, 2354/17)

War Diary

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Monday

HOME COMMANDS

France

Operation Ariel

British Refugees

Following from Naval Attache. 14 ships sailing from Le Verdon p.m. 17/6 for Falmouth 1200 British refugees. British MADURA with 180 embassy staff and 800 refugees sail same time from Le Verdon for Bristol Channel. Ships are being routed coastwise to Ushant and then direct. Life-saving accomodation has had to be exceeded. Request escort if available. (ARETHUSA to A.C.W.A. 0017/17)

Transports

Sailed French ships FRECHAC, VULCAIN, JAUARY, SAUMUR, ARMENTIER and ST. CLAIR escorted by French trawlers ASPIRANT MENUN and TERRENAIRE II for Brest. (F.O.I.C. 0019/17

S.N.O. Brest

Act as S.N.O., Brest. On arrival get into touch with B.N.L.O. and French authorities. CUTTY SARK with special parties should be in port. Party for Brest is to be transferr to BROKE and CUTTY SARK sailed for St. Nazaire. Apparently all British troops have been evacuated but situation as regards stores and M.T's is not clear. Important that all British Stores should be evacuated if possible.
Certain LL minesweeping equipment may be in French trawlers. Endeavour to obtain or destroy this, also specifications of the gear. Reported that 7000 Belgians arrive p.m. 18th for evacuation, also that French and Polish troops from Norway under Gen. Bethouart may wish to leave (C. in C. W.A. to BROKE, 0324/17)

Tankers reported at Brest (D. of S.T. 0330/1

Your 0013/17 Meeting postponed. Remain whe you are for the present. D.O.D.H. 0137/17 t ARETHUSA)

Enemy Mining

Suspect considerable magnetic mining of River Loire during night. One of 2 LL trawlers under repair. Request aeroplane sweep be carried out forthwith of buoyed channel St. Nazaire to seaward. (S.N.O. St. Nazaire, 0332/17)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operation Ariel

Enemy Mining Contd.

S.N.O. St. Nazaire's 0332/17. Aeroplane sweep would be unreliable against latest German mines. Request second pair of LL trawlers be sent to St. Nazaire. (D.M.S. 0812/17 to C in C., W.A.)

Brest Open

My 1459/16. Brest reopened p.m. 16/6. Ships routed to Brest must enter harbour as soon as possible. Adm. Ouest informs Capt. Bisselt. No sign of liner. British HELLENOPHON only ship arrived. (MACKAY, 0745/17)

Direct all ships for Brest into harbour (list) (C. in C., W.A. to WESTCOTT, 0834/17)

G.O.C. in C.

C. in C., requests provisional arrangements be made for a destroyer to be at St. Nazaire at 2130 today to convey him and staff to U.K. Approx. numbers 12 officers 20 other ranks. (B.N.L.O., H.Q. L of C., to C. in C., W.A., 0915/17)

Transports Required 18/6

Request 4 troopers and 4 mechanical transport davits light tomorrow Tuesday. (D.S.T.O. Cherbourg 0951/17)

H.M.S. BEAGLE to return to Loire forthwith. WHIRLWIND escorts BATORY to Plymouth. (C. in C., W.A. 1029/17)

Transports urgently required here. (Capt. D 1054/17)

St. Malo

Nantes says he does not want me and staff. No reply from Bordeaux. Last S.R. steamer leaving today. Am coming in it with staff. Practically all British subjects have left. Codes and Cyphers destroyed. (St. Malo, 1106/17 to F.O.)

Brest Reopened

My 1459/16. Brest reopened p.m. 16/6. Ships routed to Brest must enter harbour as soon as possible. (C. in C., W.A. to all ships, Area B, 0739/17)

WOLVERINE

Your 1336/16. WOLVERINE is at Quiberon Bay. Capt. D. 9. to A.C.W.A., 0351/17)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operation Ariel Contd.

Convoy for Milford Haven

Convoy of 19 ships all full ready by noon. Intend to sail them unescorted to Milford Haven. FRANCONIA temporarily out of action due to near miss. Empty ships are being sent as required. (WOLVERINE to Capt. D. 9. 0618/17)

Am now in communication with S.N.O., St. Nazaire, S.P. 02218(S) D is not held in HAVELOCK (Capt. D. 9., 0411/17)

Your 0618. You are to escort this convoy taking H.M.S. AGATE and trawler CAMBRIDGESHIRE with you. (S.N.O.A., Loire to WOLVERINE, 0830/17)

Quiberon Bay. Sailed convoy 26 ships including pilot and collier. (Route) (WOLVERINE, 1245/17)

Brest Situation re disposal of French M.V's.

Letter from Captain Bissett at Brest reports French Authorities almost oblivious of situation and all awaiting guidance from higher authorities, who were moving across S. of France all yesterday. They have no ideas whatever as to evacuating any of their warships or M/Vs. There is no antagonism but merely laissez faire. If an evacuation is at all likely I should like as many destroyers as possible here to assist and would suggest the destruction of as many M/V's as possible either by torpedoing them on our way out or by an aircraft raid very soon after the armistice. It would be criminal to leave so many good ships to the enemy. (C. in C., W.A. 1145/17 to Admty)

LL Equipment etc.,

Re obtaining or destroying Asdic gear also LL M/S equipment supplied to French Trawlers (A.C.W.A. 2317/17 to VAN QUISHER)
Most important that all possible drawings of French naval ammunition and at least general arrangements drawings of gunmounting should be sent in naval ships leaving France. (A.C.N.S. (H) to S.N.L.O., Brest, 1745/17)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operation Ariel. Contd.

Brest — Sufficient ships have now arrived. (Brest W/T, 1103/17) Join Capt. D 9 at St Nazaire (C. in C., W.A. to WHEN, 1129/17)

Tankers — Consult French Authorities and instruct all tankers now at Quiberon Bay and not required by French to Proceed Milford Haven for orders forthwith. (D. of S.T. to Consul, Nantes, 1305/17)

Essential that no delay shall occur in loading M.T. vessels (C. in C., W.A., 1311/17 to S.N.O's, Brest and St. Nazaire.

Code Words. Convoys — Operation Ariel. Code words allotted to convoys for U.K.:- From Brest, Piano, Motor, Rotor, Rivet, Piano 2, Motor 2, etc., From Loire, Stable, Penjo, Matto, Olive, Stable 2, Pojo 2, etc., (C. in C., W.A., 1312/17)

G.O.C. — Detail a Destroyer to bring a General Officer and Staff from St. Nazaire to U.K. sailing 2130/17 (C. in C., W.A., 1336/17 to D. 9.)

Armistice Report — An informed French Govt. signed armistice 1230 today. Have not been able to confirm yet. (ARETHUSA) (1442/17)

HIGHLANDER — Starboard engine out of action after fouling buoy. Intend HAVELOCK should return to U.K. forthwith. Am transferring to HIGHLANDER as S.N.O. afloat, Loire. (Capt. D. 9. 1417/17)

Clearing Shipping — Following signal has been sent to N.C.S.O's in French Atlantic ports-
"If it becomes necessary to sail all shipping in French ports it should be dealt with in two main classes.
(a) ships normally on short sea routes;
(b) Ocean going ships.
Ships in A class whether loaded or light should proceed Belfast and Clyde in equal number.
Ships in Class B, if empty or loaded with coal should proceed Hampton Roads or Sydney, Cape Breton, if loaded with other

/cargo.....

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HOUR COMMANDS

Operation Ariel

Clearing Shipping Contd.

cargo or unseaworthy for Atlantic passage or short of bunkers should proceed Belfast and Clyde in equal numbers bunkering en route if absolutely necessary. Tankers if loaded or partially loaded should proceed Falmouth, if empty to Cape Town.
In case of doubt use your discretion bearing in mind that object is to clear all repeat all Shipping British Allied and Neutral"
You should use your best endeavours to obtain full French co-operation. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1111/17, to B.N.L.O., Bordeaux)

Shipping to be cleared

My 1113/17 Take action now to clear all shipping except that acting under orders of C. in C., Portsmouth in Operation Ariel. (D.T.D., to B.N.L.O's. and Consuls, Brest Cherbourg, etc., 1425/17)
Have patrolled off Brest and Ushant. No sign of large transport or other ships entering. Have intercepted 5 store ships from south and several from Brest homeward bound. Intend closing Brest to find personnel ships. (WINCHELSEA, 1823/17)
Have all M.T. and stores from Brest been embarked? (C. in C., W.A. to MACKAY 2331/17)

Loire Evacuation to be completed tonight.

French state embarkation in Loire will be completed tonight. Confirm that this is correct and includes personnel and stores and M.T. (C. in C., W.A. to D. 9. for S.N.O. St. Nazaire, 2342/17)

All B.E.F. to withdraw

It has been decided that whole of B.E.F. is to be withdrawn immediately. It is hoped that all troops from Brest and St. Nazaire (D.N.I. adds St. Malo) will be ready to embark tonight 17th. Troops from La Pallice will not be ready until 18th. 13 trawlers should arrive Brest from p.m. 17th 6 motor lighters a.m. 18th. 8 trawlers arrive Loire 0800/18, 4 coasters and 4 M.T. ships a.m. 18th, 5 coasters approximately 1600/18 ETHELRICK should be at La Pallice and 2 fast channel steamers leave U.K. for there p.m. 17th. Every possible means is to be employed to speed up evacuation including requisitioning of any craft available locally. S.N.O. St. Nazaire endeavour to pass to S.N.O., La Pallice. (C. in C., W.A., 1851/17, to S.N.O's Brest and St. Nazaire, etc.)

War Diary

17.6.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operation Ariel. Contd.

Hospital carrier ST. JULIAN to be sailed for Brest forthwith. (C. in C., W.A., 1953/17)

Belgian Troops

Belgian Govt. state about 7,000 officers and men should be ready to embark tonight monday. Request confirmation. They are to be embarked in any ships for U.K. (C. in C., W.A. to MACKAY 1907/17)

Your 1707. No confirmation re any Belgians before leaving Brest at 2130/ (S.N.O. Brest in MACKAY, 2223/17)

30,000 embarked

Situation report 1930. Total embarked apprax. 30,000 All big ships sailed independently. MACKAY and trawler will take off small number remaining. Anticipate leaving 2200 (S.N.O. Brest 1929/17)

G.O.C.

Following received. Request arrangements for evacuating G.O.C. may be signalled. S.N.O., St. Nazaire, to C. in C., W.A. 1830/17)

Demolition

Army detachments (specified) will endeavour to destroy all British and French oil stocks in area St. Nazaire, Donges, Nantes before embarking. Request you give every possible assistance. (W.O. to Senior Brt. Army Officer St. Nazaire 1935/17)

Withdrawal of Belgian Troops

Admty. 1614/17. Belgian Govt. has requested that a number of officers and men mostly of 1940 class should be withdrawn from France to U.K.
2. It is understood that about 7000 will be ready to embark from Brest and up to 5000 from Bordeaux tonight: the Bordeaux party includes 500 Dutch 500 Belgian pilots and machines.
3. Obtain confirmation through N.L.O's and make such arrangements as appear practicable observing that Belgian ships are being employed for Operation Ariel. (V.C.N.S.(H) 1716/17 to C. in C., W.A.)

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Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operation Ariel, Contd.

Communications — Your 1742 (Whether messages can be accepted for British Embassy and B.N.L.O.) Yes. Am returning to Bordeaux. (BERKELEY 193(/17)

Polish Minister — President of Poland and Minister of Foreign Affairs accompanied by British Ambassador to Poland and staff now on board. (ARETHUSA, 2029/17)

Prisoners — Admty. 1804/17. 200 German Air Force prisoners arriving at Bordeaux. Report when these prisoners have been embarked. (C. in C., W.A. to ARETHUSA, 1955/17)

Cherbourg — Position at Cherbourg uncertain at present but adequate shipping being provided if possible tonight. (D.N.I. 2020/17)

Situation Brest 2300

1. Evacuation of troops completed with departure at 2145 of MACKAY and 3 trawlers and at 2300 of remaining 3 trawlers with stragglers.
2. Harbours cleared of all shipping except French in accordance with Admty. 1426/17
3. Appears fair possibility of part at least of French Naval Force in theatre affected will be sailed in time to avoid surrender to enemy.
4. Intend remaining Brest as long as there is any hope of bringing out French forces, in particular RICHELIEU, now about a month from completion.
5. Retention LL trawlers essential for this purpose in view of second aircraft mine-laying raid now in progress (Admiral Ouest 2325/17)

Appeal of Polish President General Sikorski to make every effort to save Polish army. (ARETHUSA 2052/17)

Air Protection — Fighter protection. Cherbourg and Brest. Details. (Air Ministry, 1940/17)
3 squadrons of fighters are now at Nantes (C. in C., W.A. to D.C. 2016/17)

Army and R.A.F. leaving Rochelle approx. time 0030/18 aboard THISTLEGLEN and [illegible]. Request naval escort. W/T station closed down. (Desire to Air Min., 1945/17) (D.C., 2355/17)

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17.6.1940.
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HOME COMMANDS

Operation Ariel, Contd.

La Pallice

Evacuation La Pallice expected to be completed by 0200/18. THISTLEGLEN and PHILIP M sail in company for Falmouth (route) (Rochelle, 2000/17)

STUDLEY to join MACKAY at Brest (C. in C., W.A. 2011/17)

G.O.C.

Your 735. Explain situation to General. If he still wishes to use a destroyer, comply. (C. in C., W.A. to D. 9. 2024/17)
Situation report at 1800/17. A (1) 18196 (2) 1697 (3) 3352 etc., (C. in C., Portsmouth 2027/17)

D.9., Brest

Have ordered WINCHELSEA to join Capt. D.9. at St. Nazaire. No further destroyers required at Brest. (S.N.O. Afloat, Brest, 2027/17)
An proceeding to join D.9. 12 ships of unknown nationality anchored in Ause de Berthaume (WINCHELSEA 2100/17)
In MACKAY. Your 2036 arrived too late. All ships sailed from Brest. British ETTRICK not yet seen. (S.N.O. Brest to C. in C., W.A. 2217/17)
Divert any small ships proceeding to St. Malo to Cherbourg. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 2230/17 to FOXGLOVE, ROSEMARY)
Your 1650/17. ASPIRANT BRUN, TERNERAIRE 2 and convoys are to proceed to Brest as originally directed. (Admiral West to C. in C., W.A. 2328/17)

Norman Force to be withdrawn

Following signal received. Personal from S of S. to General Brooke. French Army has been ordered to cease fighting. (Note it is thought this statement is incorrect)

Norman Force should now withdraw for evacuation Cherbourg.

You alone can decide agree evacuation material possible in accordance information obtained by you. There is of course no question of an Armistice as regards British troops. (D.O.S. (H) to C. in C., Portsmouth & W.A., /17)

HOME COMMANDS

Operation Ariel, Contd.

Poles ex Narvik

My 2306/17. Following from C.I.G.S. for General Brooke. Would like you to call at Brest and see S.N.O. who has been asked to ascertain if French and Poles ex Narvik are still there and want embarkation to U.K. Also ascertain if any further evacuation of personnel, vehicles and stores is possible. (D.O.D. (H) to D. 9. /17)

Direct any small ships proceeding to St. Malo to Cherbourg. (C. in C., Portsmouth to WOLVERLAVE, ROSEMARY 2230/17)

Your 1655/17. ASPIRANTE RUN, TERRAINE 2 and convoys are to proceed to Brest as originally directed. (Admiral West, to C. in C., W.A. 2328/17)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations- France

Situation re disposal of French Ships

Capitaine Bos, my Liaison Officer, returned from Brest this morning. He is truthful and loyal to Admiral Ouest and myself. Admiral Ouest will not act unless ordered by Higher Authority. All the navy will obey. He would like his Navy to continue fighting. Ordinary Frenchmen believe that we evacuated Dunkirk without consulting French and are now doing the same. It is evident that any demolition work will be in the face of strongest possible French opposition and if attempted before evacuation would result in sacrificing the remainder of our army. RICHELIEU could be subsequently torpedoed.

JEAN BART is in a lock and therefore immune. The French might possibly scuttle their ships, but the idea is repugnant to them. C. in C., W.A. 1251/17/ to V.C.N.S.)

Dieppe

Following from Cdr. Howard Johnston begins French objecting to demolitions. Armed guard preventing access all objectives including Dinan oil. Will do my best. Ends. (WIRD AWAN 0645/17)(to Adty)

War Diary

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Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Iceland

Asking to retain Sunderland to visit Seydisfjord and other parts of coast soonest possible. (Alabaster to W.O., recd. from W.O. 0730/17)

Strength of Garrison recommended. (Alabaster 1806/17)

Air Force to be established

Arrangements being made to establish squadron of 6 I.E. and 3 I.R. Walrus amphibians in Iceland to operate from fiord in vicinity of Reykjavik. Aircraft, stores, etc., will proceed in ARGUS, expected to sail 22-23/6 (Ad. of Mir, 2004/17)

Operations- M.T.B's.

VIVACIOUS

Attacked by M.T.B's., one torpedo missed ahead. (VIVACIOUS, 2359/17) 7 miles E of Dungeness (I.C. 0485/)

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HOME COMMANDS

Air.

British Air Activity

Routine flights to France to cease forthwith. (Air Ministry, 1601/17)

6 destroyers attacked. Six stationary Destroyers attacked at 2305/17 in position 53° 44' N. 7° 14' E. One direct hit. (Chatham, 0140/18)

A/C's brought down by ships. Analysis of reports from ships engaged in evacuation of Dunkirk has established that 35 enemy A/C's were destroyed and at least 21 of these wre seen to be damaged and in distress, all as a result of ships' gunfire between 0300/27/5 and 20001/6. (VA. Dover 1834/17)

Two M/V's VEGA and VENUS attacked by A/C at Bergen. No hits (O.I.C. 0485)

Attack on. Trondheim Six Hudsons, six Beauforts, escorted by six Blenheims have proceeded from Sumburgh to attack enemy ships at Trondheim. (C. in C. Rosyth 0934/17 to C.in C. H.F.) Not seen owing to low cloud (Donibristle 1520/17).

Patrols. My 1524/4 and my 0002/8, Patrol S.A. will also be flown at dawn as well as at dusk. Patrol S.A.2 has been extended, northern limit now being 065 degrees from M B H I 4800 to 60 miles from Norwegian Coast, and is being flown by five aircraft instead of three. My 1526/4 owing to shortage of aircraft, S.12 and W. 2 cannot always be flown. Unless referred to in the daily air search signal, it can be assumed that they will not be in operation. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1826/17)

Enemy Air Activity.

St. Nazaire. Bombing St. Nazaire (HIGHLANDER 1352/17) (D.9,1615/17)

Enemy activity during 17/6 Enemy air activity during 17th, except for the usual North Sea Meteorological Flight, was confined to the Channel and French Coast Area. R/C flights at Brest and the mouths of Loire and Gironde kept our ships under constant observation. St. Nazaire was bombed twice, and Le Verdon once by one A/C. Shipping engaged in the evacuation from the French West Coast was also bombed, ORONSAY (20,043 tons British) being hit and slighly damaged and LANCASTRIA (16,243 tons British) hit and seriously damaged. The Norwegian ANNAVORE (3324 tons) was also attacked by A/C 7 miles S.W. of Lefour, but escaped damage. (I.C.0485/40)

ORONSAY damaged

LANCASTRIA damaged

Le Verdon 1 A/C bombed (BERKELEY, 1942/17)

FRANCONIA British (20175 tons) under Govt. Charter attacked by A/C at 0618/17 and damaged by near miss. (WOLVERINE 0618/17)

LANCASTRIA (Cunard & White Star 16243 tons) under Govt.Charter

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HOME COMMANDS

Air

Enemy Air Activity.

was hit by bomb 1602/17 while embarking troops at St. Nazaire and was reported to be sinking. (HIGHLANDER 1603/17)

ORONSAY — (Orient Line 20043 tons) under Govt. charter was hit by a bomb 1352/17 at St. Nazaire but was able to sail at 1830/17. (HIGHLANDER 1352/17). Have lost contact with ORONSAY. Last seen 2320/17 at MZOO/2217. (HAVELOCK 0500/18 to C.in C. W.A.)

ANAVORE — (Norwegian 3324 tons) attacked by A/C's off St. Nazaire 1535/17. Not damaged (IC. 0485/40).

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Loire. L.L. trawlers required. Suspect considerable magnetic mining of River Loire during night. One of 2 L.L. trawlers under repair. Request aeroplane sweep be carried out forthwith of buoyed channel St. Nazaire to seaward. (S.N.O., St. Nazaire, 0332/17).

S.N.O. St. Nazaire's 0332/17. Aeroplane sweep would be unreliable against German mine. Request second pair of L.L. trawlers to be sent to St. Nazaire. (D.M.S., 0812/17)

2 Mines have been exploded off St. Albans Head and 2 off Poole.

Portland 3 aircraft mines were dropped in Weymouth Bay last night and others are suspected in the harbour. Portland was closed (I.C. 0484/40) (F.O.I.C. Portland 0112/17).
Port is open. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1102/17 to Adty.)

Texel Further evidence supports the probability of mines 40 miles N.W. of Texel and a danger area has been declared (I.C. 0484/40). See 6/6.

Thames Estuary The area where 5 German moored mines were found 13/6 has been searched without further result and QZX 104 cancelled (I.C. 0484/40).

East Coast Barrage Line B.S.16 is about to be laid. Position. (D.O.D.(M) 1243/17).

Brest Closed owing to probable mines (C. in C., 2nd Region 2210/17).

Enemy Intelligence

3 trawlers 3 trawlers in line astern 52:15 N., 2:42 E. Aircraft report. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0545/17 to H.Q.C.C.)

Suspicious M.V. Suspicious M/V reported by aircraft 70' S.W. of St. Kilda (Donibristle 0645/17 to Adty.)

U-boat off Helder 2 small tenders and 1 U-boat at 1450/17 11 miles W. of Helder. (I.C. 0485/40).

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

3 M.Vs. 3 unidentified M.Vs at 2305 at 53:42 N., 7:16 E. (I.C. 0485/40).

12 Naval vessels 12 vessels of naval appearance, 10 stationary and 2 moving towards Elbe, between Langeroo and Wangeroo at 2340/17. (I.C. 0485/40).

Pocket battleship off Elbe 1 ship, believed Pocket Battleship, anchored in Mouth of Elbe at 2350/17. (I.C. 0485/40).

Some time has elapsed since German Main Fleet has been sighted, except units at Trondheim. Particular emphasis is therefore attached to R/C requirements of 1st priority and to a R/C of Stettin where a sea-borne expedition can now be prepared in complete secrecy. (I.C. 0485/40).

Amphibious Tanks. A.4 report emanating from high Fifth Columnist German in this country that over 100 tanks of 170 tons Amphibious type are being erected on Belgian Coast. (B.N.A., Buenos Aires, 1745/17).

1 Cruiser & 4 destroyers off Narvik Enemy cruiser and 4 destroyers position Narvik 2020/17, course 250, 8 knots. (Aircraft 204 Sqdn., 2030/17, C. in C., Rosyth, 2030/17 to Submarines on patrol).

M.T.B. attack 1 enemy M.T.B., 7 miles east of Dungeness. (VIVACIOUS, 2350/17). My 2350, 1 torpedo missed ahead (VIVACIOUS, 2359/17).

1 M.T.B. 1 M.T.B. bearing 180 degrees St. Catherines Pt. 4. (Portsmouth, 1620/17).

Norwegian Warships

Request report on state, armament, etc., to enable decision on future employment to be made. (D.O.D.(H) 1308/17).

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Until further orders, no more merchant shipping of any nationality employed commercially is to be sailed for French ports. (D.T.D., 1110/17).

If it becomes necessary to sail all shipping in French ports, Short Sea Traders should proceed to Belfast and Clyde in equal numbers. Ocean-going ships empty or loaded with coal to Hampton Roads or Sydney, Cape Breton; if loaded with other cargo, unseaworthy, or short of bunkers, to Belfast and Clyde in equal numbers. Tankers, if empty to Capetown, otherwise to Falmouth. Object is to clear all shipping, British, Allied and Neutral. (D.T.D. 1112/17 to B.N.L.O., Brest). (see also Operation Ariel).

Suspicious Ships

Ships sighted by aircraft 56:50 N., 10:00 W., 210/9/0405 to be regarded with suspicion (Donibristle 0645/17).

Some Swedish and Finnish Cellulose ships have agreed to proceed from Bergen to Germany under their own crews. They leave Bergen tonight in small groups. (O.I.C. 0485).

Adty. Message B.R. Ships are not to proceed to French ports. Ships bound for French ports should call at a convenient British port on their route. (D.T.D. to all British M.V.'s, 1516/17).

Broadcast from all G.B.M.S. Stations under your control.

Merchant ships of all nationalities are warned that as French Broadcasting stations are now under German control they should disregard any messages or instructions issued by such stations. (D.T.D. to all stations, 1914/17).

All ships other than French diverted to Falmouth from OGF 34 and having coal cargoes on board are to be sent to London. Report names of ships arriving from this convoy and those ordered as above to London. French ships are to be held pending further orders. (D.T.D. 0040/18 to N.C.S.O. Falmouth).

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

Ships in French Atlantic Ports A.C.N.S.(T) 1111/7. See Operation Ariel.

Miscellaneous

Finnish Merchant Vessel MATHILDATHORDEN leaves Petsamo 18th June for Halifax and New York with about 40 survivors from H.M.S. HUNTER and 30 R.A.F. fitters. Personnel should be removed at sea if possible or ship taken to a convenient port to do this. (F.O.C.N.P. 1251/17, to N.P.)

Russian movements Motala Radio reported 2200/17 that Russian Battleship OCKTABRYSKM REVOLUTSYA has arrived at Tallinn in company with other Naval units.

There has been considerable Russian Naval activity in the Baltic in the past week and Russian Warships are also reported from Meza and Zibau. (N.I.D. VI).

Weather

0645/17	Wind	Weather	Visibility
North Sea (a) N. Half	Light and variable.	Cloudy.	Mainly good.
(b) S. Half	N. or N.E., moderate to fresh.	Cloudy with drizzle and fog patches in S.W. of area.	Moderate to good.
Horn's Reef	E.N.E., light to moderate.	Cloudy.	Mainly good.
Channel	N.N.E., moderate.	Overcast or cloudy with occasional drizzle. Patches of fog (thin) or haze.	Moderate.
W. Approaches	N. Light to moderate.	Fair to cloudy.	Good.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic

Convoy Positions HX53. (D.T.D. 1318/17 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

French Convoys and Patrols Positions (D.C. 0825/17 to C. in C., W.A.)

British Submarines Positions at 0600/18 (V.A.S. 1837/17).

Lisbon Until situation here clarifies, request only urgent secret matters should be sent to me. Am destroying non-essential matter now. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1130/17).

Canary Islands Requesting geographical position of aerodromes in Canary Is., and appreciation of situation there. (S.O.I., Gibraltar to D.N.I., 1712/17). Replies (Madrid, 2119/18, D.N.I., 1470/18).

Tangier affair regarded as Spanish victory and is fomenting demand for Gibraltar. More reasonable opinion considers Spanish entry into war as impossible, yet enthusiasm for it among Falangist Youth. All agree that whatever Italian-German demands, will be readily granted Gibraltar being promised in return. From trustworthy source it is stated all British will be expelled from island. (Palmas, Majorca, to Humdrum, London. 1930/17).

Have instructed Barcelona sail British ships PINTO and CORTES and Dutch THESSABILITIES to Gibraltar forthwith in territorial waters. (F.O.C.N.A. 1940/17). Cancel my 1836/17 (F.O.C.N.A., 2202/17).

Spain and Gibraltar Suggestions for flying boats to fly to Malta if Spanish attack on Gibraltar materialises. (H.Q., Med., to Air Ministry, 2330/17).

Report of forthcoming attack on Gibraltar French N.A. has received report from French Consul Heulva that Portuguese Consul has informed his Govt. that attack on Gibraltar is imminent by Italian and German aircraft and Spanish ground forces. Attack is only waiting arrival of specially powerful explosive known as T.4 coming by Italian submarines.

In my opinion this is a (? confirmation of version of enemy plan involving some unauthorised Spanish elements. I cannot grade accuracy of source. I have taken steps to

see.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic (Contd.)

Report of forthcoming attack on Gibraltar (Contd.)

see that Spanish authorities are privately informed (N.A. Madrid 1229/17).

Intelligence points to Spain opening hostilities very soon by heavy attack all arms on Gibraltar probably with aid Italian air and ground and German air forces in which event all seagoing units Navy would leave Gibraltar immediately. Plans made to evacuate R.A.F. to Port Lyantey in accordance with H.Q. Med. instructions in these circumstances now likely to prove useless in view French situation. Suggest only alternative to preserve 202 Sqdns. for aircraft to fly direct to U.K., remainder personnel and equipment to follow by any ship available. Would appear Swordfish must be abandoned as provision suitable shipping highly improbable (200 Group 1755/17).

South Atlantic

Disposal of French Naval Units.

B.N.L.O. Dakar reports Admiral at Dakar has received telegram from Admiral Darlan ordering him to continue. Admiral at Dakar stated even if later this order is reversed navy at Dakar will join British. Suggest arrival of CARNARVON CASTLE or MOOLTAN be hastened as presence of British warship would make good impression and help to maintain morale.

British M.L.O. reports shore battery and A/A personnel have offered their services and equipment to British. (C. in C., S.A. 2359/17).

Disposal of French Colonial Troops

Re disposal of British transports with French Colonial troops on board. (C. in C., S.A. 2231/17, 2239/17.

Your 1916/15, re Senegalese native troops to Brest. British CITY OF MARSEILLES is being sailed with accommodation for 450 troops under cover, balance on deck if necessary. Arranging if possible British CITY OF SIMLA to carry balance in addition to 700 troops mentioned in your 1845/12 by not fully loading cargo on coast. (N.O.I.C., Capetown, 1505/17, to Transports, London).

KIRRIEMOOR

A.C.N.Bs 1141/22/5. KIRRIEMOOR due Capetown 14/6, not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1618/17).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Policy

Ships for Dardanelles — Until certain that Turks mean to assist us fully by exercising contraband control in Straits, I do not intend to send on ships now awaiting passage from Egypt with military and road-making materials for Dardanelles. (C. in C. Med. 0143/17 to Adty.) Reply. Your 0143/17. Your action is approved. (1 S.I. 2344/18 to C. in C. Med.).

Italian Tankers to be sunk on sight. — Italian tankers are to be sunk on sight without warning. (C. in C., Med. 1041/17 to Capt. S.1) Cancelled (C. in C., Med. 1809/18).

Mediterranean - Operations

Cable cut — Ref. my 1417/15 (re Northern 2 cables between Malta and Bona) cable cut between Pantellaria and Cape Bon. (S.O.I.Malta 1405/17 to D.N.I.)

Envelope B.S.2 Appendix 1, Area 2. Add new zones N and O (details) (C. in C., Med., 1321/17).

British positions 1300/17 (D.C. 0922/17).

N.O.I.C. Haifa — Request his appointment be extended to N.O.I.C. Palestine Ports. (C. in C., Med., 1817/17).

Martial Law, Egypt. — Reference draft proclamations to impose British martial law in Suez Canal Area or over Egypt generally. Army Council with concurrence of Admiralty and Air Ministry have directed that for purpose of internal security powers to be exercised by G.O. C. in C., Egypt under martial law should cover all Members of H.M. Forces in Egypt including those not directly under his command. Any directions given by the G.O. C. in C. for the purposes of internal security are therefore to be complied with by Naval Authorities if martial law is declared. (1327/17 to C. in C., Med., Head of M.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Air.

British Air Activity

Understand refuelling facilities can no longer be guaranteed available at Tunis, El Djem or virtually east of general line Tebessa. Would appreciate confirmation. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., to 5th Air Army, Algiers 0942/17).

Tobruk bombed — Tobruk naval oil tanks bombed night of 16-17/6 (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1846/17).

Enemy Air Activity

Air raids on Malta — 4 raids, first by 10 aircraft, dropping 38 bombs line Corradino to Luga. Gladiators attacked and hit one enemy several times. Damage slight raids 2 and 3. Attacked DIAMOND, hit by splinters, no casualties. Raid 4 on Takali 15 bombs dropped (F.O.I.C. Malta 2005/17 H.Q. Med. to Air Min. 1755/17).

Mediterranean - Mining

An Italian minefield exists in 32:19 N., 24:8 E. (off Tobruk). Limits not known, but direction probably 080° - 260° (I.C. 0484/40)

In view of the rapidly changing minelaying situation on the Medit. Station, this Station can no longer be regarded as "contiguous" to the Home Station. H.M.Ships will be supplied with QK Messages but not repetition not QB Messages. Merchant vessels will be routed to Gibraltar if they are required to enter the Medit. (Head of M. 2048/17 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Mediterranean - Enemy Intelligence

4 light craft — Four enemy light craft reported at 35:35 N. 35:35 E. off Latakiya, Syria, at 1200/17, course 180. (O.I.C. 0485) (C. in C., Med., 1736/17).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

Submarines Navarino

Reference orders detain in port all British ships I presume movements between Greek ports either by night or mostly in territorial waters are permitted. Have received C.3 report that Italian Submarine patrol is off Navarino. There are 2 British ships lying at Kalamata awaiting instructions which could be ordered to Navarino to await mythical convoy if you wish a bait. (Athens, 1300/17)

Mediterranean - Shipping

Orders to Shipping

Your 2305/15. Eastbound British ships sheltering in North Africa ports should proceed Gibraltar in westbound convoys. British MASIRAH and British GLEN HEAD should remain at Bizerta. (C. in C., Med., to B.N.L.O., Bizerta, 2059/17).

All British, allied and neutral shipping in Southern French ports should be sailed soon as possible during dark hours via Spanish territorial waters to Gibraltar, subject to my 0041/17 to B.N.L.O. Toulon only. (D.T.D., 1545/17).

My 1545/17. Following require to be shipped to U.K., using any shipping available. 400 British civilians awaiting repatriation at Marseilles. British Consul Nice repeats that 3,000 British civilians there wish to be evacuated. (D.T.D., 1953/17, to N.C.S.O., Marseilles).

Your 1501/16. The intention is to hold temporarily all cargoes for neutral ports in the Mediterranean until M.E.W. has arranged with Neutral Govts. concerned to report their safe arrival. Ships with cargoes solely for Turkey should be excluded from my 1554/15 and may be released now. Instructions for Alexandria apply to Port Said so far as it is practicable to enforce them there. As regards other Eastern Medit. ports under our ~~xxx~~ control shipments for Medit. neutrals have already been stopped by instructions from Colonial Office to revoke and cease issuing export licences for Medit. neutral countries other than Egypt and Turkey. (D.E.W.D. 1301/17 to C. in C., Med.).

WAR DIARY. FOREIGN STATIONS. 17.6.40.
Monday

East Indies.

Convoy B.N.1. Your 1159/16. Convoy B.N.1 leaves Bombay 0230Z 23/6. Route. Should pass Perim at dusk 4/7. F.O.C.R.I.N. to C.-in-C., E.I., 1121Z/17).

Hospital Carrier. Air HQ. concerned with evacuation of invalids and casualties from Aden and Berbera to India which might be required at any time. Understand hospital ships, British ship VITA not ready until early July. If occasion arises intend to offer Italian ESQUILINO to them as hospital carrier, manned probably by Norwegian crew ex Norwegian ship JAMES STOVE, accommodation about 300 passengers. (S.N.O., Red Sea, 1238Z/17.)

CATHAY for S.A.Station Admiralty 2359/14, transfer of A.M.C. to S.A. station. Intend to transfer CATHAY. (C.-in-C. El 1227Z/17).

Destroyers, Minesweepers Admiralty 0459/16. Would welcome H.M.A. ships PARRA MATTA and YORRA as reinforcement to Red Sea Force but would not like to lose DERBY and HUNTLEY which are most suitable and frequently only available ships for local minesweeping at Aden. (C. in-C. El 1231Z/17.)

China

Relations with French For information. H.M.S. DAUNTLESS arrives Saigon 20th June. Pending instructions intend visit to stand. Am prepared to proceed by air to Saigon at short notice to confer with French Admiral but am awaiting further developmentss before deciding. General Officer Commanding is prepared to accompany me to Hanoi to confer with French General (s) if War Office considers it advisable. If visit concurred in should be grateful for indication of line we should take. Adty. pass War Office. (C. in C., China, 1506Z/17

Situation G.O.C. has shown me War Office Tel: 74123 of 16th June. While watching closely the situation in the Far East I see no reason as yet to alter refitting programme and I intend to refit H.M.S. DURBAN at Hong Kong early in July. Estimated time 7 weeks. (C. in C., China, 0500Z/17).

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Oil Tankers — Your 1604/16. Consider Bermuda more suitable than Jamaica, and up to 15 tankers could be detained at Bermuda. If reserve required in Caribbean Sea, propose Jamaica for about 10 tankers. Consider Trinidad too exposed to attack. (C. in C., N.A. & W.I. 1002/17 to Adty.)

Dispositions — In view of major crisis consider effort to catch odd Italian ships causing too much dispersion and that we should now conserve our effort. Am withdrawing my ships to bases so as to be ready for next phase. (C. in C., A. W.I., 1311/17).

French Warships — Canadian S.O.(I) Halifax 0855/16. Understand from attitude of French Officer on leaving that they would be prepared to put into a British port if order to do so. (C.N.S., Ottawa, 1101/17). (Refers to departure of Fr. Training Cruiser JEANNE D'ARC & Fr. Aircraft Carrier BEARN).

Examination Service — Will be established in the Strait of Canso on 22/6 (Ottawa W/T, 1606/17).

Tankers — Your 1604/16. Under present conditions estimated a total of 80 ships can be held in Halifax, Sydney C.B., and St. John N.B. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1856/17 to Adty.)

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

Home Commands

HAVELOCK — Starboard engine out of action, intending return her to U.K. forthwith. Am transferring to HIGHLANDER as S.N.O.A. float Loire. (Captain D.9 1417/17 to Adty.)

MURMANSK — Armed trawler. Grounded and abandoned at Brest during evacuation of B.E.F.

GLORIOUS / ACASTA — Request survivors be interrogated if they can corroborate that ACASTA scored one hit on fore part of an enemy cruiser. (C. in C.H.F. 1428/17)

Foreign Stations

RICHARD DE LARRINAGA — British reported 12/6 as being 8 days overdue at Buenos Aires, had by then arrived at that port and sailed again for Bahia Blanca, cleared from there 14/6 for Freetown.

WESTCOTT — Collided with S.S. NYROCA during afternoon and was holed. Speed reduced to 8 knots. (Scapa W/T, 1459/17, 1530/17)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

MADDA — 5181 G.T. arrived Teneriffe 17th June (I.C. 0485/40)

FELCE — Seized at Haifa with 8250 tons phosphate in bulk (C. in C.Med. 0942/17)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Ships attacked.

ELPIS	Greekattacked by submarine 43°46'N 14°4'W at 0456 (C. in C.W.A.0535/17)
CHAMPLAIN Sunk	French (28,124 tons) mined 0945/17 off La Pallice and sank. (S.N.O. La Pallice, 1000/17) Sunk by mine or torpedo 46°10'N 1°14'W (I.C.0485/40)
CANTON	A.M.C. Missed by torpedo at 1734/17 at 54°26'N 11°16'W. (328° Slyne Head 74') (CANTON, 1734/17). Believed 2 submarines in company (CANTON, 1746/17)

Submarines reported.

0109	43°46'N 14°4'W (about 270 miles W of Cape Finisterre) reported by Greek SS ELPIS (ACWA 0251/17) (See Ships attacked) (ELPIS 0122/17) Cancel my 0251. Position incorrect CALENDULA in touch with ELPIS (ACWA.0534/17)
0425	47°N 15°30'W (312°Finisterre 360°) (O.I.C.0484)
0707	45°30'N 15°W (O.I.C.0484)
0910	47°30'N 8°W (248° Ushant 130') (O.I.C.0484)
2005	35°55'N 14°32'E (off entrance to Grand Harbour, Malta) by DIAMOND
2012	60°N.15°W. Unknown Enemy Unit, probably U-Boat. Unreliable fix. D/F report. (D.D.I.C.2112/17 to V.A.N.P.)
0129	43°46' N., 14°04' W., 283° Finisterre 218'. Greek ELPIS reported U/B. (I.C., 0484/40)
1921	32°2'N 30°0'E (25 miles N.W. Risetta) by STUART
0830 and 0910	47°30' N., 8°W., 248° Ushant 130'., position indefinite. (I.C., 0484/40)
0825	43°53'N 13°59'W (about 220 miles W. Finisterre) (a/c report)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Submarines reported. (Contd.)

1510 — 48°25'N 6°45'W (about 65 miles W. Ushant) (a/c report) (C. in C.W.A.1551/17)

1734 — CANTON reported 2 submarines 54°25'N 11°16'W

Estimated dispositions -

2 in Finisterre area
3 in Western approaches
1 S.W. of Ireland outward bound
1 N. of Scotland homeward bound
1 N. of Shetlands homeward bound
1 off W. of Iceland and possibly 1 S.E. of Iceland
1 in Bergen area
1 Italian, probably between Gibraltar and Madeira (I.C., 0484/40) (D.D.I.C. 2024/17)

1450 — 11 miles W. of Helder (By A/C) (I.C. 0485/40)

1413 — 48°45'N 13°30'W (227° Fastnet 225') Position very indefinite. (I.C. 0485/40)

1905 — 51°15'N 3°52'W (314° Lynton 1½') Seen from shore. (Course N.E. (I.C.0485/40)

Submarines attacked.

0825 — 43°53'N 13°59'W by A/C (O.I.C. 0484) Six bombs dropped and hits claimed (Cab.War Record 289) (C.in C.W.A. 0944/17. 2204/17)

1510 — 48°24'N 6°45'W (268° Ushant 65'). Bombed by A/C. and two Destroyers ordered to attack. (O.I.C. 0485) 2 Direct hits claimed (Cab.War Record 289) (C. in C.W.A. 2359/17 to Admiralty)

Details of attacks at 0825 and 1510 (C. in C.W.A., 2056/17)

Mediterranean

Submarines Reported.

1921 — 32°02'N 30°E (330° Rosetta Mouth 35') Reported by STUART. (O.I.C. 0485)
A Greek ship arriving Syra 16th June met two submarines between Milos and Crete and a third

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

1921 (Ctd.) near Suda Bay, unknown nationality. (N.A. Athens 1147/17 to C.M.C. Med.)

Submarines Attacked.

2005 Off Malta Harbour by DIAMOND and A/S CORAL D/C's dropped on contact. DIAMOND dropped 3 patterns and CORAL 1. Consider attack successful. (F.O.I.C. Malta, 2005/17)

18.6.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Withdrawal of troops from France.

Part of the French armies are still fighting.

H.M. Consuls at French possessions have been instructed to assure local French authorities that we will do all in our power to assist the French possessions to defend themselves. (D.N.I. 1755/18).

Withdrawal of the 140,000 British troops in France is proceeding from ports on the North, North West, and West coasts.

At Brest, evacuation of personnel was completed by 2300/17. Demolitions were to be carried out by the French. The Germans entered Brest at 1900/18, and stores and motor transport had to be left behind. The armed trawler MURMUSK grounded at Brest during the operations and had to be abandoned.

All personnel was evacuated from Cherbourg and St. Malo by 1600/18 and demolitions completed. At St. Nazaire, S.N.O. left in WINCHELSEA at 1315/18 with Brigadier Gill and staff; a number of Belgians remained to be evacuated at night. All A.A. guns, tanks, and the best equipment were withdrawn. Ships were sailed for La Pallice and Bordeaux, in readiness for evacuation there. ARETHUSA is at Le Verdon and BERKELEY at Bordeaux.

Up to midnight 18/19 the total landed in the United Kingdom was 82,014.

French Naval Forces.

See Adty.1850/18 in Operations Volume.

Every effort is being made to persuade the French Government to order the French Fleet to British ports or alternatively to sink itself before armistice terms are discussed.

Council and Ministers have agreed unanimously to refuse any terms which include surrender of French Fleet. (D.N.I. 1755/18).

The battleship COURBET was off Ushant at 2215/18, steering north. The battleship PARIS is proceeding to Plymouth. The new battleship RICHELIEU sailed for Dakar at 1747/18 from Brest.

All French naval forces are believed to have left Cherbourg.

Admiral, Ouest, in LE HARDI has left Brest for Dakar. All French naval forces ready to steam at Brest, Lorient and St. Nazaire, were to leave before tonight for Casablanca, including the new destroyers EPEE and MAMELUCK at Lorient.

18.6.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

It was intended to try to take the uncompleted battleship JEAN BART out of St. Nazaire, empty of fuel, during the night of 18-19. She is to be refuelled at sea and sailed for Casablanca.

All French a/c. ready to fly have left Brest for Hourtin, south of the Gironde.

Admiral, Ouest, intends to sail for British ports any French M.Vs. which have not enough fuel and water to go to Casablanca.

A French convoy of six fully-loaded store ships on passage from Greenock to Brest, escorted by two armed French trawlers, has been diverted by Admiral, Ouest, to Milford Haven.

ARK ROYAL and HOOD — ARK ROYAL and 4 destroyers left Scapa 1545/17 to R.V. at 2000/18 with HOOD and screening ℄ destroyers from Clyde, 250 miles West of Malin Head (N.Ireland). HOOD and ARK ROYAL are then to proceed to Gibraltar with despatch.

Action with E. boats — VESPER and VIVACIOUS were in action with 2 German E boats off Dungeness about 0230/18. One torpedo was fired at VESPER and missed. The enemy escaped.

Enemy Cruiser off Narvik. — A Sunderland A/C on reconnaissance in the Narvik area 2030/17 reported an enemy cruiser and 4 destroyers off Narvik proceeding on a westerly course at 8 knots.

Enemy Transport sunk. — TeTRARCH reports that on 16/6 she sank an escorted southbound transport off Lister Light.

British AIR Activity. — Normal patrols were flown.
A new anti-invasion patrol of Lysander a/c is being flown at dawn and dusk between Sheerness and Selsey Bill from p.m. 18/6.
6 Hudsons left at 0900/18 to attack the 6 destroyers sighted and attacked yesterday off Norderney, and were ~~later~~ ordered to investigate a bomber pilot's report that a battleship was anchored at the mouth of the Elbe. No ships were sighted except 15 barges off the docks at Norderney.

Three Blenheims carried out a reconnaissance of Stavanger. Seven M.V.'s of about 2,000 tons each were observed.

Coastal and Fighter Commands provided air protection for the evacuation of British forces from France during the afternoon.

Enemy Air Activity. — Chatham was raided at midnight 18-19/6. Two bombs were dropped, one into the mud between R.N. Armament Depot at Upnor and the training ship ARETHUSA, and one on to a disused barge shed. 8 bombs fell near Hole Haven oil depot, and a number near Shell Haven, where the pumping station was set on fire. Bombs were also dropped on Southend.

Nine enemy A/C were brought down by our fighters, and three by other means. Four others were possibly destroyed.

Mining

Brest is closed.

A magnetic mine was exploded off Portsmouth and one off Lowestoft.

5 Hampdens laid mines in the Estuary of the Elbe during the night of 17/18 June.

Attacks on Shipping

At 1654/18, the British ship NIAGARA (13,915 tons) was sunk by an explosion, origin unknown, off North Island, New Zealand. A mine was swept up near the position.

Italian Hostilities

Malta was raided at 0915. One bomb was dropped, which exploded about 10 minutes after contact. No damage was done.

A/C reported that the damaged Italian submarine was still at Ceuta.

The Governor and C in C. reports that the number of A.A. guns at Gibraltar is quoted in derision in the Spanish Press.
He suggests that the promise of even a small expeditionary Force to North Africa might do much to stimulate the French to carry on the struggle there and might also restrain Spain.

War Diary

18.6.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet — Fleet is at 2 hours' notice for steam (C. in C., H.F., 1040/18).

NEWCASTLE) SUSSEX) — Return to Scapa with despatch (C. in C., H.F. 0954/18).

GALATEA) IMOGEN) GRIFFIN) — To be sailed for Plymouth with despatch (D.O.D.(H) 0105/18 to C. in C., Portsmouth) Arrived 0930 (C. in C., W.A. 1018/18).

CORFU CANTON — Your 1610/17. Vessels should remain under operational control of C. in C., Western Approaches unless current operations are suspended or until ships are required to proceed to Freetown. (D.O.D.(H) 1729/18 to V.A.N.P.).

Submarines — Positions 0800/19 and movements (V.A.(S) 1944/18)

HOOD & ARK ROYAL — Sailed from Clyde 0407/18 escorted by FRASER, RESTIGOUCHE, SKEENA, ST. LAURENT, and WANDERER to R/V with ARK ROYAL in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 2314/17 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0407/18).

My 2000/17. ARK ROYAL and HOOD are required at Gibraltar as soon as possible. (D.D.O.D.H. to V.A.A.)

No further air escort available (C. in C., Rosyth 1046/18 to ARK ROYAL).

Disposal of French Fleet

Following from B.N.L.O. Cherbourg. Admiral Nord proposes to send all warships and seaplanes based at Cherbourg to Portsmouth if peninsular line is forced. It is now being attacked T.O.O. 0036/18. Ends. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0207/18).

Cherbourg — Pass to French Adty. from F.N.L.O., British Adty. We are informed that as defences of the Carentan Line have been forced and as it seems impossible to resist more than a few hours longer, Admiral Nord has taken dispositions to evacuate to England the Fleet under his orders. (For F.N.L.O. 1236/18 to B.N.L.O. Bordeaux).

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War Diary

18.6.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Disposal of French Fleet

Admiral West has decided to evacuate forces Maritime Ouest TOR 1001/18 (A.C.W.A. 1243/18 to VANQUISHER)

? All ships left Brest. (COURTIER 2155/18)

Brest Force

BROKE reports French Naval Force leaves this evening for Port Mollendo, North Africa. Admiral West Mollendo in LE HARDI. Demolition intended for 2359. 1556. Ends. This includes RICHELIEU (C. in C., W.A. 2055/18).

RICHELIEU

RICHELIEU has sailed with Admiral West (BROKE 1747/18).

V.C.N.S. 1850/18 to All C's in C. and S.N.O.'s concerned. see Operations Volume.

RICHELIEU
PARIS

Evacuation from St. Malo and Cherbourg completed 1600. Enemy in Brest at 1900 - situation of French Naval Forces in these ports not fully known, but RICHELIEU sailed at 1747 with Admiral Ouest in LE HARDI for Dakar and PARIS proceeded Plymouth. All French Naval forces believed left Cherbourg. (D.C. 2022/18).

Brest Forces to sail for Casablanca.

Information collected form Admiral Ouest (Brest) at 1600 B.S.T./18.

1. All French naval fordes at Brest, Lorient and St. Nazaire ready to steam will be sailed before tonight for Casablanca except RICHELIEU which will sail to Dakar. EPEE, MAMELUCK (new destroyers) will leave Lorient tonight.

JEAN-BART

2. Intended to try to take out of St. Nazaire tonight JEAN-BART empty of fuel. Will refuel at sea and sail for Casablanca.

3. Admiral Ouest was informed of presence of tugs and demolition party, but stated all arrangements made and no assistance required.

M.Vs

4. French M.Vs who have not enough fuel and water to go to Casablanca to sail for Milford Haven, Falmouth or Plymouth.

6 Store ships

5. Plans for demolition at Brest and Lorrient are ready. Orderfor execution is to be given at any moment today. (C. in C., W.A. 2254/18).

COURBET

Off Ushant, steering North (MACKAY 2215/18 to A.C.W.A.)

War Diary

18.6.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

France

Evacuation of B.E.F.

WHIRLWIND — Sailed for Gironde (C. in C., W.A. 0254/18).

Stores to be evacuated from Brest. — BROKE act as S.N.O. Brest. Apparently all British troops have been evacuated but situation as regards stores and M.T.'s is not clear. Important that all British stores should be evacuated if possible.

Certain L.L. M/S equipment may be in French trawlers, endeavor to obtain or destroy this, also specifications of the gear.

Reported that 7000 Belgians arrive pm/18 for evacuation. Also French and Polish troops from Norway under general Bethouart may wish to leave. (C. in C., W.A. 0324/18 to BROKE)

Personnel only to be embarked — Your 2331/17. Final instructions from G.H.Q. after several reversals of policy during Monday forenoon was Personnel only to be embarked. About 25 guns were embarked. (S.N.O. Brest in MACKAY 0031/18 to C. in C., W.A.)

Brest - minesweeping — Your 2325/17. Every assistance will be given. 3 large Tugs have been sent St. Nazaire. L.L. Sweepers ordered to remain at Brest. BROKE is now S.B.N.O. at Brest. Please communicate your requirements. (C. in C., W.A. 0425Z/18 to Ad. Ouest).

Air raid — Enemy bombing Berthaume (BROKE 0607/18).

Cherbourg area — 157 Infantry Brigade began arriving Cherbourg Area about 1800/17, apparently not followed up by enemy. Numbers evacuated to midnight 17/18:

Fit	41,779
Wounded	732
Guns	71
Vehicles	595

145 Heavy Bombers employed during night. Two missing. (W.O. Summary to 0700/18).

HOME COMMANDS

France (Contd.)

Brest & Le Pallice closed

Brest and La Pallice closed. Mines probable (A.C.W.A. 0714/18 to Ships)

Embarkation of Personnel will be complete pm/18 but no stores and no M.T. and no shipping available for either. (S.N.O. St. Nazaire 0730/18 to C. in C., W.A.).

Last Shipment

Close Cherbourg. Be ready to go alongside Quai du Honet to evacuate last shipment of about 800 troops and naval demolition party 50 and to provide covering fire. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1107/18 to SABRE and FERNIE).

St. Malo evacuated

St. Malo evacuation complete. Preparing demolition Closing down wireless. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1325/18 to FOXGLOVE).

All M/T and Store ships crammed to capacity with Personnel; all holds in use and men short of food and water. If these conditions can be accepted propose detail BAHARISTAN with 2500 troops on board. (S.N.O. St. Nazaire 1440/18 to A.C.W.A.).

Impending attack on Brest

Reported Germans making special efforts reach Brest quickly. Inform Admiral Ouest. (C. in C., W.A. 1442/18 to BROKE).

In view impending attack on Brest request you will leave Harbour Gate open. (A.C.W.A. 1444/18 to Admiral Ouest).

Nantes. No fighters

Understand there are now no fighters at Nantes (C. in C., W.A. 1514/18 to D.9).

Cherbourg Evacuated.

Evacuation of Cherbourg and demolition completed satisfactorily. (FERNIE 1720/18 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

S.N.O. St. Nazaire evacuated Port at 1315/18 with Brigadier Gill and Staff. (S.N.O. St. Nazaire in WINCHESTER 1817/18 to A.C.W.A.).

Operation Ariel completed. All Personnel evacuated Cherbourg and St. Malo. Demolition completed. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1823/18 to Adty.)

Cable to be destroyed

French cable company report Germans are marching into Brest. Cable will be destroyed at 7 p.m. (C.T.C. to Adty. Recd. 1921/18)

War Diary

18.6.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

France (Contd.)

Polish Army — ARETHUSA's 2052/17. Every effort is to be made to evacuate these troops. W.O. ~~are~~ endeavouring to trace their whereabouts. (D.O.D.(H) 1338/18 to C. in C., W.A.).

Refugees — Can only embark 200 of 600 refugees expected this afternoon unless I can use Dutch and Norwegian ships. If present flow of refugees continues I must ask for ships to be sent here. Can you give me estimate of total number to be expected. (ARETHUSA 1342/18 to BERKELEY)

Have now requisitioned Dutch ship BENNEKOM for refugees. She can accommodate 400 (ARETHUSA 1444/18 to BERKELEY)

WHIRLWIND — Expects arrive Le Verdon at 0500/19. (C. in C. W.A. 1705/18 to ARETHUSA).

SOBIESKI, KONNIGEN EMMA — Sail SOBIESKI and KONNIGEN EMMA for Mouth of Gironde forthwith, to make contact there with British Warships. (C. in C., W.A. 1759/18 to D.S.T. Plymouth).
O.

Czech troops — One Czech Divn. with A/C total 12,000 is at Agde near Montpellier, Marseilles. Endeavour contact its General Inggr at Bezier and inform him that if he can reach Bordeaux before enemy troops interfere with route, transport to U.K. will be provided. (C. in C., W.A. 1951/18 to ARETHUSA).

Have you enough tonnage for evacuation Gironde (C. in C., W.A. 1943/18 to ARETHUSA).

Sailed MADURA for Falmouth and NARIVA for Bristol Channel. Intercept and escort (ARETHUSA 1925/18 to WHIRLWIND).

Operations

Four Swedish destroyers PSILANDER, PUKE, ROMULUS, and REMUS probably accompanied by supply ship PATRICIA and tanker CASTOR left Queenstown 15th June and will probably call Faroes to refuel from CASTOR. (Hd. of M. 1645/18 to N.O.I.C. Faroes).
Advising Northern Patrol. (F.O.C.N.P., 1851/18)

War Diary

18.6.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

AIR

British Air Activity

R/C of Stavanger — 3 Blenheims leave Sumbrough shortly for r/c of Stavanger (C. in C., Rosyth, 1054/18)

Identification Signals — Measures to safeguard and to conserve stocks of pyrotechnic signals (Air Min. 1229/18)

Marx and Borkum air bases to be attacked — At first convenient opportunity you should undertake heavy attack with night bombers on Marx Aerodrome and Borkum Seaplance Base with the object of reducing scale of minelaying now being carried out from these two air bases against our Naval Bases and ports on the East and South Coast. (Ai Min. 1315/18 to Bomber Cmd.)

R/C's of Norway coast — 2 Blenheim aircraft leave Sumbrough as soon as possible to R/C Norwegian coast from 60.N to Lister (C. in C., Rosyth 1758/18 to C. in C., H.F.)

Following R/C's ordered in addition to my 1928/18. Trondheim and Fiords down to 62°N; Bergen and Fiords up to 62° N coasts and Fiords between Bergen and Stavanger; and Aarlborg (C. in C., Rosyth 1930/18 to C. in C., H.F)

Prohibited Area — Existing S. Coast Training Area cancelled Whole of English Channel to Lizard and ten miles inland from 3.30'W to 5.20' W is now a prohibited area except specified Training Area for day use only. (Air Ministry 1329/18)

0510 — 3 destroyers, stationary, attacked by aircraft, 53.45'N., 7.10'E., 5' N.W. Norderney. No hits. (I.C., 0486/40.

0512 — 6 destroyers, stationary, attacked by aircraft 53.43'N., 7.12'E., 5' W by N., Norderney. No hits. (I.C., 0486/40)

Invasion Patrols instituted — Lysander aircraft will carry out Dusk and Dawn Invasion Patrols along Coast Sheerness to Selsey from dusk 18/6 till further notice (D.C.1651/18 to C. in C., Nore)

Enemy Air Activity

Raids on ~~England~~ tonight (17/18) — See Situation Report.

War Diary

18.6.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

NURNBERG & 4 Minesweepers

Aircraft 2030/17, HIPPER class cruiser accompanied by 4 destroyers were 10 miles W. of Narvik apparently steering for exit from Ofot Fiord. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0554/18) (Denibristle 0514/18)
Cruiser appears definitely of NURNBERG or LEIPZIG class (C. in C. Rosyth 2250/18)

The BLUCHER class and 4 destroyers sighted by aircraft off Narvik have been identified from photographs as the NURNBERG and 4 of the latest M class minesweepers. (I.C., 0486/40)

Destroyers and 40 M.V's

2 aircraft reported at 0510 3 destroyers stationary 53.45'N 7.10'E, 6 destroyers 53.43'N 7.5'E and 40 small merchant ships all under 500 tons anchored off Emden at 0512. Further reconnaissance is being carried out (D.O.D. (H) 1000/18, to C. in C., H.F.) 3 destroyers were attacked, no hits (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0835/18)

E-Boat

RT intercept indicates presence of E-Boats towards Havre (C. in C., Portsmouth 0016/18)

VIVACIOUS attacked by E-boat

VIVACIOUS attacked by one E-boat at 2350/17 seven miles East of Dungeness. One torpedo missed ahead. VESPER on patrol sighted two, possibly four, E boats at 0114/18 near No 10 Buoy. Enemy retired to southward at high speed persued by both Destroyers. Lost touch at 0150. (V.A. Dover 0900/18 to Admty)

P.D.U. Sortie at 1200/18 shows one M.T.B. at Eastern Arm Avant-Port, Boulogne. (P.D.U.I. 2027/18 to N.I.D.)

M.T.B. had left Boulogne by 1945/18 (P.D.U.I 0230/19 to N.I.D.)

War Diary

18.6.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence, Contd.

1200. 1 E-boat, E. Arm Avant Port, Boulogne. (I.C., 0486/40 had left by 1945/18)

No hostile craft in Havre, Fecamp, Dieppe etc., (I.C. 0486/40)

2315 1 E-boat, 4 bombs dropped, near misses, entering Harlingen, Zuider Zee. (I.C. 0486/40)

1323 7 M.V's, Stavanger (I.C. 0486/40)

6 destroyers and 19 merchant ships were reported by aircraft off the German Frisian Islands between 2305 and 2340. 1 large warship was reported anchored between Heligoland and Cuxhave at 2350 (I.C., 0486/40)

WAR DIARY. 18.6.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Insurance. Government will cover all Allied or neutral vessels obeying Admiralty. 1112/17. (D.T.D.0346/18).

Routing to Med. In view of the rapidly changing minelaying situation on the Mediterranean Station, this Station can no longer be regarded as "contiguous" to the Home Station. H.M.Ships will be supplied with QK messages but not repetition not QB Messages. Merchant vessels will be routed to Gibraltar if they are required to enter the Mediterranean. (Hd. Q M., 1900/18, & C in C W.A.)

Shipping bound for France. Neutral and Allied Shipping bound for France and met at sea is to be sent to a C.C.Base or U.K. Port for detention and enquiry. (Admiralty A Message 1314/18).

ORONSAY. Arrived 1547 (C.-in-C. W.A. 1917/18 to Adty.)

Greenland Ships. (See America and West Indies.)

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

French Cables. Request sail ALERT when Escort available to divert Havre/Newfoundland cable into Penzance, to cut both Havre/Waterville cables in mouth of English Channel, and to repair Porthcurno/Lisbon cable 95' from Porthcurno. (DDODH. 1907/18 to C.-in-C. W.A.)

0500 B.S.T.

WEATHER.

	Wind.	Visibility	Outlook.
North Sea.	N.E.fresh in South East, variable light or S.W. moderate in North.	Mainly good, haze in South.	Similar. Visibility improving in South.
Channel.	N. or N.E. moderate.	Good or very good.	Similar.
Horns Reef, Dutch coast, Skagerrak.	N.E., moderate or fresh.	Good.	Similar.
Further north.	W. or S.W. light or moderate.	Good or moderate.	Visibility deteriorating.

War Diary

18.6.1940.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

SS OREGON — (British 6008 tons) reported overdue 12/6, arrived Las Palmas 18/6 (D.S)

MARIE CHANDRIS — Greek, Damaged by collision with ELISABETH LENSON. Towed into Falmouth. (C.C.S.O. Falmouth, 1134/18 to M.E.W.)

SCIENTIST — British (6199 tons) left Durban 17/4, overdue, presumed lost.

HAXBY — Britisn (5209 tons) left Clyde 8/4 for Corpus Christi, overdue, presumed lost.

War Diary

18.6.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Convoy — Your 1940/17. Gibraltar-Oran convoy of 7 ships due to leave 0600/19. Should it be sailed? (F.O.C.N.A. 1136/18)

French Attitude — French Govt. have proposed to Nogues that he should continue the fight. Suggest the promise of Expiditionary Force even small to North Africa where French are weak might go long way to stimulating French to carry on there. Might also restrain Spain (Governor Gib. 1155/18)

Gibraltar — No further indication of imminent attack by Spaniards and warning should be obtainable. All arrangements made to clear harbour quickly in event of heavy gunfire attack. (F.O.C.N.A. 1134/18 to Admty.)

South Atlantic

HERMES — Proceed to Dakar at best possible speed (C. in C., S.A. 0240/18) Revert to control of C. in C., S.A. (D.O.D (F) 1445/18)

DELHI — Proceed to Dakar if fuel permits and come under orders of C. in C., S.A. (D.O.D. (F) 1445/18)

PATROCLUS — After refuelling at Gibraltar is to be sailed to rejoin Northern Patrol (D.O.D.(F) 1445/18 to C. in C., S.A.)

Dakar — Civilian morale poor and natives indifferent If necessary shall attempt garrison Dakar Peninsular with loyal troops. Airport, Oil Tanks, and Docks can easily be destroyed from sea. Ample water, but food supplies would have to be sent. (B.L.O. Dakar, 0015/18 to War Office)

Fayal — German Nationals say Fayal will be German territory by next October. Fact. (V.C. Horta 2220/18)

War Diary

18.6.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Operations and General

Disposal of French Fleet

Admiral Godfrey commanding French force here expressed horror at idea of handing French ships over to Germans; said he would sooner scuttle them. He also asked if there was no possibility of continuing fighting under British Flag.
Also said morale of French sailors was high.
I have highest opinion of Godfrey. (C. in C., Med. 1345/18)

AA guns for Gibraltar

It is hoped to evacuate certain R.A.F. personnel and Equipment including 13 three inch and 4 Befors A/A Guns. If successful, serviceable Guns, Stores, and Ammunition with necessary Personnel should be disembarked at Gibraltar for Local defence. (D. of L.D. 1834/18 to F.O.C.N.A)

Results of Operations

A/S operation by destroyers mentioned in my 1445/16 resulted in 1 and possibly 2 U-boats being attacked 40 miles N. of Alexandria. Result not yet known.
2. As result of report by French aircraft of 4 unknown enemy units off coast of Syria 1200/16 14th D F were ordered to vicinity of Kaso Straits and 1 Divn. 2nd D.F. to position 60 miles S. of Cape Guyda ((Crete) and GLOUCESTER to near Rhodes.
Flying boats cooperating, no result yet.
3. Operation planned.
4. Re Adty. 1936/14 and more extended operations. (C. in C. Med. 1549/18, 1701/19)

Enemy Air Activity

Malta

Raid from 0915 to 0923 G.M.T. by one aircraft which dropped one bomb at Hal Far. Bomb exploded about ten minutes after contact. No damage (H.Q. Malta 1618/18 to Air Ministry)

War Diary

18.6.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean, Contd.

Mining

Mines laid by enemy submarines have been well outside 100 fm. line. It is suspected they are in as much as 200 fathoms. Mines are known to be in 40.12'N., 17.29'E and also on lat. 40.18'N somewhere between 17.00 'E., and 17.31'E. (off Taranto). (I.C., 0486/40)

Shipping

British vessels or vessels under Allied control in Algerian Ports are to sail for Gibraltar as early as possible, in convoy if available but failing this independently using darkness and Spanish territorial waters. (D.T.D. 2308/18 to N.C.S.O. Algiers)

My Memo M727/5 of 30 May. Coastal Traffic to recommence using ~~Mash~~ore route and cover of darkness. Escort will be provided for oiler and A.S.I.S. Other M/V's may be included in Oiler and A.S.I.S. convoy if of similar speed. Not thought that Aegean Convoy will be run for at least ten days. (C. in C. Med. 0019/16, Recd. 1313/18 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area)

China

Shipping

Is your 1516/17 (ships not to proceed to French ports) intend to apply to ports in French Indo-China and is your 1940/17 (all French ships to proceed to nearest British port) intended to apply in China Station. (C. in C., China 0150/18 to Admty) Reply. Use your discretion (A.C.N.S. (T) 1406/18)

Your 0150/18. Cancel my 1406/18. Yes. (D.T.D, 1848/18)

Incident at Ichang

Japanese aireraft flew low over river and sprayed British property 1100/17 killing and wounding many refugees. (N.L.O. Shanghai 0804Z/18)

Gunboats

CRICKET and TERN are being withdrawn for service elsewhere; but no present intention of withdrawing PETEREL who is permanent S.N.O. Shanghai. (C. in C. China 1112/18 to B. Ambassador, Tokyo).

War Diary

18.6.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Greenland Ships

Admiralty and Ministry of Shipping suggest that GERTRUD RASK and GUSTAV HOLM owned by Greenland Government be allowed to continue to sail in Greenland waters flying Greenland flag. Neither ships nor Govt. have link with Copenhagen. (Hd. of M., 1518/18, to C.N.S., Ottawa).

New Zealand

Possible Raider

The presence of mines in position 35.53'S 178.54'E., off Aukland, N.Z., indicates the possibility of a raider at large in the Pacific. (I.C., 0486/40)

War Diary

18.6.1940.
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

FREIENFELS
REICHENFELS
WACHTFELS
ANCARA
MARITZA

Refuging at Trieste. Requisitioned by Italian Govt. immediately previous to their declaring war. (I.C. 0485/40)

MARITZA

Reported to have arrived Sibenik, Yugoslavia 18/6 for bauxite destined for Germany via Trieste. (I.C., 0486/40)

ITHAKA

Arrived Galatz 18/6. (I.C., 0486/40)

War Diary

18.6.1940
Tuesday

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CONTE ROSSO	Was delayed sailing from Ancona 14/6, will leave 20/6 with British Embassy staff on board. (I.C. 0485/40)
CONTE BIANCAMANO	(24,416 tons) at Bilboa. A.P. Co have instituted proceedings for arrest for debts U.S. Marshal is on board. (I.C. 0485/40)
CATERINA At Braila) MADRE ABBRAZZIA At Galatz)	Proceedings instituted for arrest by A.P. Co. (I.C. 0485/40)
ESQUILINO	Captured at Aden 12/6, may be manned by Norwegian crew ex JAMES STOVE and used as hospital ship for evacuating casualties from Aden if need arises. (I.C. 0485/40)
SANTAROSA	From postal censorship it would appear that this ship is at Norfolk, Va., and has been sequestered for American debt. (I.C. 0485/40)
MAR GLAUCO	Arrived Hampden Roads, 14/6 (I.C., 0486/40
TORCELLO	Tanker, left Varna 14/6 for Batum. " "
CAPO ARMA	Reported to be at Braila and not Istanbul as previously reported. " "
CAPO FARO	Previously reported Istanbul, did not arrive there, believed turned back to Italy. " "
RAPALLO	Tanker, at Cartagena, Colombia reported to have taken water, but sale of oil fuel refused to her. " "
MADA	Reported stranded on Tenerife I. 14/6, now reported as having arrived Tenerife port. " "

War Diary

18.6.1940.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN escaped — Chased by submarine 51.3'N 4.40'W 0838 (Lands End Radio de G.K.U. 0841/18) escaped (Portishead Radio 0955/18)

~~**WAIRUTA**~~ — ~~British (6838 tons) Sunk 1654/18 by explosion, origin unknown, off North Island, New Zealand (D.D.)~~

NIAGARA — British (13,915 tons) sunk 1654/18 in 35.53'S 174° 54'E, at mouth of gulf of Hauraki, 60 miles N. of Aukland, New Zealand. An area of 7 miles radius has been decared dangerous and a mine was swept up in 35.50'S 174° 54'E (NZNB 05362/19) (Navy Office, Wellington 1750Z/18)

Submarines Reported

0838	51.9'N 4.50'W (5 miles W Lundy L.) by Dutch FLENSBURG.
1749 BST	By D/F probably U-boat 46.30'N 9.0'W unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 1846/18)
1012	51.6'N 4.39'W. WITCH, ACHERON to attack (C. in C., W.A. 1025/18)
0230	Unknown submarine sighted by coasting schooner AMACONA about 200 miles E of Halifax (D.C.N.S. 28Φ)
1624	103° Belle Isle 7 miles. Submarine tracking ARANDORA STAR. (Portishead W/T 1624/18) Cancel my 1624 Escaped (ARANDORA STAR 1657/18) 47.18 N., 2.55'W. (I.C. 0486/40)
1945	188° Lands End probably between 47° N and 49° N. D/F report (D.D.I.C. 2045/18 to C. in C., W.A.)
2100	CITY OF DERBY suspects U-Boat astern at 51.30'N 6.40'W (C. in C., W.A. 2309/18 to VOLUNTEER)
1716	46.30' N., 9.00'W., 234° Ushant 180°., indefinite position (I.C., 0486/40)
1623	50.38'N 06.33'W (C. in C., W.A. 1630/18 to ACHERON)

War Diary

18.6.1940.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported (Contd)

Estimated U/B Dispositions

1 in Finisterre Area
3 in Western Approaches; one of them may be farther south.
1 S.W. of Ireland homeward bound.
1 in 54.26'N, 11.16' W at 1734/17 probably outward bound.
1 in about 60. N 15. W ay 2012/17 possibly homeward bound.
1 N. of Shetlands homeward bound.
1 in Norther part of North Sea homeward bound
1 Italian possibly between Gibraltar and Madeira

(D.D.I.C. 1202/18)

0300/16

1225/16

On June 16, 0300, unknown submarine sent boat ashore Ribeirinha, North Coast, San Miguel, with two men who returned to submarine after 15 minutes ashore. At 1225/16 submarine seen on surface eight miles south Feteiras, San Miguel, source A. zero (Lisbon, 1221/18)

Submarines Attacked

1523

Submarine attacked by ASIATIC at 50.38'N. 5.27'W Help. (Lands End Radio 1524/18) submarine sighted again, gun crew now firing (ASIATIC 1602/18)

54.26'N 11.15'W attacked by aircraft, reported by CANTON (A.C.W.A. 1319/19)

Mediterranean

Submarines Reported

1800

38.N., 3.25'E 065° Cape Matifon, indefinite position (I.C., 0486/40)

Submarines Attacked

? time

By aircraft in 12:35 N., 45:20 E., 120° Aden 30'. (I.C., 0486/40)

War Diary

19.6.40.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

France

Withdrawal of Troops, Cotentin Peninsula

Evacuation of Brest was completed at 0030/20 when BROKE left with Polish troops and stragglers. She reported the French demolitions largely effective and that all French warships had left the harbour except 2 submarines, scuttled. BROKE and STURDY are escorting 2 French submarines with escort vessels PESSAC and SAUTERNE, to Plymouth.

Gironde Area

GALATEA has sailed from Plymouth for Arcachon to relieve ARETHUSA who has left Le Verdon with surplus personnel. BEAGLE has sailed for Bordeaux with a demolition party and stores.

Several magnetic mines were laid during the night 18/19 and one French merchant ship was sunk today.

Marseilles

At 1845/19 Adty. ordered all British merchant ships in ballast which could reach Marseilles within 48 hours, to proceed to that port forthwith.

Disposal of French Fleet

COURBET and 2 destroyers were patrolling off Isle of Wight pm/19.

PARIS

French Battleship arrived Plymouth 1425/19 (C. in C. W.A. 1554/19 to Adty.)

French Naval tugs ATTENTIF and CHAMPION, transport MEKNES, Despatch Vessel SUIPPE arrived Plymouth (F.L.O. Plymouth 1115/19 to F.N.L F.N.L.O. London)

Norway

German fordes are reported to have occupied Kirkenes on 15/6.

Russia

A report to the War Office speaks of German troops and tanks from Norway and Denmark being landed in East Prussia. Political indications show some degree of tension to exist between Germany and Russia. Soviet warships and transports arrived on 17/6 to occupy Estonian islands. (W.O. Intelligence Report).

War Diary

19.6.40.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Air.

Raid on England

German aircraft operating from Amsterdam and Lille areas raided England last night. Bombs were dropped on aerodromes, iron and steel works and an oil refinery.

Minelaying operations took place off Le Verdon. Four raids were made on Bordeaux during the afternoon and La Pallice was bombed after dark.

Patrols

Normal patrols were flown on 19/6, with the exception of reconnaissance flights to the Danish and Norwegian coast, though 3 aircraft left at midnight 19/20 to reconnoitre the coast of Norway.

Attack on Ymuiden

F.A.A. aircraft left at 2200/19 to attack docks and merchant vessels at Ymuiden and 4 barges reported at the Hague. Aircraft report that many of the usual light buoys off the Dutch coast are working again.

Mining

Magnetic mines have been exploded off Portland, Dover and a moored mine cut off Flamborough Head.

A total of 12 magnetic mines were destroyed at Cherbourg up to 19/6.

Italian Hostilities

Shipping concentrations in Trieste, Genoa and in more southerly ports are not known to have been dispersed.

The probability of German formations becoming available for employment outside France can be linked up with a report regarding the contemplated move of some German formations through Italy and Africa. (J.I.C. Report 44).

Gibraltar, Morocco.

Recommendations of Governor, Gibraltar, for reinforcing French Morocco (see Operations Volume).

Casualties.

GRAMPUS, in the Med. is reported overdue at Malta from patrol.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

M.V.'s to be attacked at sight — Any M/V in the North Sea in or to E. of East Coast Mine Barrier, and any M/V to E. of 2° E. when N. of Lat. 58° N. is to be attacked at sight; except M/Vs of whose movements submarines will be informed in advance and except fishing vessels. (VA(S) 1534/19 to S/m's on patrol)

Defence of U.K.

Orwell and Stour patrol — Armed M.B. patrol has been established on open beaches of Rivers Orwell and Stour to prevent landing of troops from sea-planes. Appears necessary to order engagement of all aircraft attempting to land on these waters. Request confirm with Air Ministry. (C. in C., Nore, 0049/19 to Adty.)

Landing grounds — Military are undertaking the immobilisation of Landing Grounds near F.A.A. aerodromes. (D. of L.D. 1740/19).

Re examination of shipping approaching the Cumbraes. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1902/19).

Movements

ARK ROYAL, HOOD, FOXHOUND — Amended route (A.C.W.A. 1216/19).

Submarines — Positions 0600/20 (V.A.S. 1718/19).

Dutch Warships — T.B.Z.5 and submarines O.21 and O.22 sailed for Belfast, expect to reach point of arrival 0720/20. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven. 1330/19).

Submarines - Dispositions

In view of possibility of enemy basing large units of his fleet on west coasts of France and Spain, have considered the redistribution of submarine flotillas that might be necessary.

Evident submarine patrols may be required off Brest, Vigo and Straits of Gibraltar. Necessary to base one or more flotillas on west or south coasts of England or Ireland. Most suitable harbours appear to be Milford Haven and Queenstown. Most suitable flotillas to move are 2nd and 3rd. Can be moved at short notice and neither need depend on shore accommodation. Both FORTH and MAIDSTONE have

good.....

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines - Disposition (Contd.)

good A/A armament.

If both flotillas removed from North Sea, submarines required to operate there could be based at shore submarine depots at Dundee, Blyth and Harwich. TITANIA will be available shortly and could act as depot at Rosyth. (Further details of berths, training, etc.) (V.A.S., 1919/19).

Disposition of French Fleet

OURAGAN — Destroyers in tow of POMERAL (?) who has engine trouble. IMOGEN, GRIFFIN try to locate and replace escort. Probable position 0600 48:57 N., 5:3 W. course 020° (C. in C., W.A. 0551/19). Located. IMOGEN, GRIFFIN escorting to Plymouth. Expect to arrive 2100 (IMOGEN 0916/19).

JEAN BART — French Battleship JEAN BART and 2 French destroyers Admiral Ouest in French destroyer LE HARDI sailed for Casa Blanca. Understood French have dealt with demolition of destroyers before German arrival. Intended to return to Plymouth. Oil fuel remaining 150 tons. Position of French Battleship JEAN BART 0800 046° 57' N. 002° 42' W. VIVA II patrolled entrance during JEAN BART exit have lost touch please instruct her. (VANQUISHER 0915/19)

Submarines — Have intercepted French Submarines MINERVE and JUNON in tow off Pierres Noires, escorted by PESSAC and SAUTERNE. Am escorting ships to Plymouth. Have ordered STURDY join me to take over tow of JUNON as her tug is short of coal. Expect to arrive at about 0200/20. (BROKE 1025/19)

Destroyer — Cherbourg morning many small French vessels off Nab Tower and Isle of Wight with some troops on board. French submarine being towed between Nab Tower and Portsmouth. 0415 destroyer seen leaving Cherbourg Harbour heading North. Did not reply to A/C Challenge. (Chatham, 0627/19)

Operation XD

Parties Q & R are assembling 19/6 at Devonport etc. (D.O.D.(H) 0100/19).

War Diary

19.6.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

France.

Bordeaux Demolitions

Admiral Burges Watson in BEAGLE sailing for Bordeaux pm/19 with demolition party and stores on board. Expect to arrive 0930/20. (C. in C., W.A. 1724/19 to ARETHUSA).

Operation Ariel

Explosion in Gironde

Heavy explosion estimated 20 miles North West from entrance. Shall I enter river? (WHIRLWIND 0208/19 to ARETHUSA).

Reply. Your 0208 no. Comply with My 1925/18.
If you cannot locate both ships after daylight investigate position of explosion in case one of them was sunk. (ARETHUSA 0422/19 to WHIRLWIND)

* Orders to WHIRLWIND to intercept and escort MADURA and HARIVA.

ORMONDE

Proceed to La Pallice, Gironde in accordance with previous orders. Report to British warship in vicinity. (C. in C., W.A. 0216/19).

Czech Division

Following received from A.C. addressed ARETHUSA: One fully equipped Czech Division with aircraft totalling 12000 (-) General Inger is at Agde near Mont Pellier. General is at Bezier. Endeavour to contact General inform him if he can get to Bordeaux Area before Enemy Land Forces interfere with route transports to United Kingdom will be provided. 1951/18 Ends. Pass to Naval Attache for necessary action. (ARETHUSA 0331/19 to BERKELEY).

Brest Demolitions

Left Brest 0030. Demolition largely effective. All French warships out of harbour except for 2 submarines scuttled. Evacuation of French troops was still in progress. One section of demolition party has not regained contact with ship but it is probable it has got away by boat. Am now leaving Bertheaume for Plymouth. 180 Polish troops on board, 20 British stragglers and 20 civilians including 12 women.
A/A at 0700 indicated Brest not yet in enemy hands. (BROKE 0834/19).

Code Words

Cancel my 1312/17. Code words for convoys for U.K. PIANO, MOTOR, BOXER, RIVET, from Loire Area, STABLE, PONGO, MOTTO, OLIVE, STABLE, from La Pallice - Gironde area. (C. in C., W.A., 1753/19).

War Diary

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operation Ariel (Contd.)

Lorient — Comdr. Rutley, ex S.N.O., Lorient, reports Lorient all clear. (N.O.I.C., Falmouth, 2321/19).

GALATEA / ARETHUSA — GALATEA to be sailed with all despatch to relieve ARETHUSA who sails tonight for U.K. She should proceed to and lay off Arcachon, where BERKELEY is being sent. (D.O.D.(H), 1354/19).

D.9 — My 2103. Capt. D.9 is to return to Plymouth in HIGHLANDER. (C. in C., W.A., 2238/19).

Refugees — List of 5 merchant ships sailed 19/6 Le Verdon for Falmouth with refugees, including Polish and Dutch. (ARETHUSA, 1546/19).

La Pallice — Situation La Pallice, MAID MARION in company. British S.N.O. has left with last of British troops. No news of any further British troops expected. There were a few Polish soldiers in town this morning am investigating the possibility of embarking them. (MACKAY 1321/19).

St. Nazaire — Unconfirmed report states all refugees embarked from St. Nazaire. Probable Germans have now arrived there. No bombing today. (VANQUISHER 1131/19 to HIGHLANDER).

Essential Gironde and La Pallice be kept clear of mines. L.L. vessels to be retained. Further L.L. vessels are being sent. (C. in C., W.A. 1936/19 to ARETHUSA).

Polish Govt. is to be evacuated in some convenient ship. This is important. (C. in C., W.A. 1954/19 to B.N.L.O. Bordeaux).

GALATEA, BEAGLE → — Sailed 1710. (C. in C., W.A. 2034/19 to Adty.)

St. Nazaire — Divert following to St. Nazaire: British OTRANTO, ORONTES, ARANDORA STAR, ST. HELIER, ETTRICK. (C. in C., W.A., 1731/19).

War Diary

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operation Ariel (Contd.)

Czech Divn. ARETHUSA's 0331/19. Impossible to contact Czech General who will submit arrangements. Apply Marseilles. (B.N.L.O., France, 1026/19).

Polish Govt. To be evacuated in some convenient ship. This is important. (C. in C., W.A. 1954/19 to B.N.L.O. Bordeaux).

France

Brest Your 2021/18 French Adty. inform me Brest is in French hands and Admiral Ouest has not left port. (B.N.L.O. Bordeaux 2250/19 to Adty.)

Mining French Ports. Request very early consideration to laying magnetic mines in French ports immediately they are evacuated and before enemy is established in them. (C. in C., W.A. 2053/19).

Codes Compromised Anglo-French call signs, Anglo French code, and recording table no 3 are all probably compromised. Anglo-French code should be used with caution. (N.I.D. 1916/19).

Cables The cutting of Brest-Fayal and Brest-Cape Cod cables have become of greater urgency than those ordered in my 1907/18 and should be undertaken with ALERT as soon as escort can be made available (D.D.O.D.(H) 1943/19 to C. in C., W.A.)

E-Boats off Dungeness

ROSEBURN British 3103 tons. Attacked by 4 E-boats off Dungeness at 2330/19. 3 torpedoes passed down her side and the fourth hit the stern. Ship was also gunned. E-boats made off steering 150 degrees. Destroyer patrol searched unsuccessfully. Ship is now in tow of tug. (V.A. Dover, 0744/20).
Was beached off Dungeness.

War Diary

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Seizure of Swedish destroyers.

My 1645/18. H.M. Govt. have decided to seize Swedish destroyers under the right of Angary. Adequate force should be sailed for Faroes as soon as practicable. (D.O.D.H. 1547/19 to C. in C., H.F.).

Your 1645/18. Vessels named have arrived negative Tanker CASTOR (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1325/19 to Adty.)

TARTAR, MAORI and MASHONA have been diverted to proceed to Faroe Islands. (C. in C., H.F. 1707/19 to R.A.(D).)

Keep vessels in harbour on some pretext till arrival of TARTAR. MAORI and MASHONA due about 0300/20. Ships should not be given fuel. (C. in C., H.F. 1832/19 to N.O.I.C. Faroes)

The right of Angary applies only to property and not to personnel (C. in C., H.F. 1933/19 to D.6).

Submarines

TETRARCH — TETRARCH reports while on patrol between JAEDEREMS and Lister sighted 14/6, one screened southbound transport off Lister. Nothing further sighted except unscreened coastal traffic passing close inshore. (V.A.S., 1326/19).

Iceland

Seaplane Operation of establishing squadron of 6 I.E. and 3 I.R. Walrus amphibian aircraft in Iceland to be referred to by code word Profit. (Hd. of Air Branch, 1400/19).

War Diary

19.6.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air

British Air Activity

Willemscoord dockyard to be bombed — Recent photographs indicate that Dutch Dockyard at Willemscoord has fallen intact into enemy's hands. There are large workships, storehouses, etc., which must be off much value to him. They provide admirable air targets, being compact, on the sea front and separated from the town. The basins probably contain a number of "E" boats. Bombardment from the sea may be possible but the coast defences are likely to be too strong. It is considered very desirable that Willemscoord Dockyard should be bombed before the enemy has had an opportunity of developing the defences of the base. (A.C.N.S.(H) 0129/19 to Air Min.).

Reconnaissance — Arranged for tomorrow 20th (C. in C., Rosyth 1958/19).

Ymuiden — South side of Inner Harbour bombed at 2210/19. No A/A fire and no enemy activity observed. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 0320/20).

Texel — Bridge bombed at 53:10 N. 4:53 E. at 2225/19 and 2235/19. One hit. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 0343/20).

Den Helder — Bombed seaplane base 0320. Large fire started. (Chatham, 0740/19).

Enemy Air Activity

ORMONDE — British, 14,982 tons, attacked by aircraft at 1754/19 (? position).
(Aircraft attack signal intercepted 1754/19).

TRELAWNEY — Distress, air attack, St. Nazaire Roads, attacked 1007. (Lands End Radio, 101 /19)
British, 4689 tons.

War Diary

19.6.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Reinforcement of E. Coast Barrier. TEVIOT BANK and PLOVER, escorted by INTREPID and ESK, are carrying out Operation B.S.16, minelaying in the East Coast barrier. (V.C.N.S.).

Gironde Several magnetic mines laid last night. One French M/V sunk am today and one other mine exploded prematurely.

Enemy Intelligence

Wilhelmshaven PDU sortie HNA/044 dated 19/6 to Wilhelmshaven largely failed through camera breakdown but photographs show roadstead off and immediately to north of Wilhelmshaven Harbour clear of shipping at 1400 hours. (O.D.U.I., 1918/19).

Boulogne Three E.boats in Outer Harbour at Boulogne at 1000/19. (I.C. 0487/40).

NURNBERG 8" cruiser reported off Narvik at 2020/17 is now identified as NURNBERG (D.D.I G. 1749/19 to AIG45).

Norway Information (B.3) from French and Swedish sources of German naval bases in Norway, and (B.2) of Swedish defences. (N.A., Stockholm, 1949/19).

Shipping

SIANTAR Dutch, 9667 tons, left Sabang for Europe on 8th May and has not been heard of since. (D.S. 289).

BRITTA THORDEN Search for (V.A.N.P. 1045/19 to Northern Patrol).

3 mile limit Your 2007/17, 3-mile limit for all shipping along East Coast. This matter is under consideration and no action should be taken on proposal pending decision. (D.T.D. 1548/19 to C. in C., Nore).

War Diary

19.6.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

Belgian Ships — Until further orders detain on some pretext or other all Belgian ships wherever bound. (D.T.D. 1351/19 to N.C.S.O.'s).

Weather

Area	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	Northerly, light to moderate.	Very good.	Similar.
Channel	N.E., light to moderate.	Good to very good.	Similar.
Western Approaches	N.N.E., light to moderate.	Very good.	Similar.
Horns Reef	N.W., light to moderate.	Moderate to good.	Similar.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

MURMANSK — Trawler grounded at Brest and abandoned. All crew brought back. (C. in C., W.A. 0542/19).

M.V. PETTER — Norwegian tanker, ran on rocks on approaching Falmouth and is leaking badly. (C.C.S.N. Falmouth 0925/19).

ROSEBURN — Reports having been attacked by 4 E-boats off Dungeness; hit by one torpedo. E-boats made off steering 150° (I.C. 0487/40) See Operations.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

F.A.A. Aircraft are not to use Gibraltar landing ground except in emergency.
(D.N.A.D. 1834/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Horta All normal. (Vice-Consul, Horta, 2240/19).

Las Palmas Situation unchanged, messages normal.
(Las Palmas 1205/19).

Shipping, Gibraltar. Owing to possibility of emergency sailing from Gibraltar of all shipping request instructions for routeing without reference to Admty. (List of ships). Other vessels expected from French ports in accordance with Admty. message B.R. All British and Allied ships are being bunkered for 2,000-mile voyages and issued with emergency Admty. route instructions to Milford Haven. Harbour is already becoming congested.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1258/19).

My 2020 (APAPA to sail for Liverpool with valuable cargo). French authorities prepared to follow my wishes regarding sailing APAPA. After consulting Consul-General Rabat I am at present delaying ship until evening 20/6. Shall send her to Gibraltar
(Casablanca, Maroc, 1537/19).

My 1542/19 (personal circulation). Convoy includes British BARON RENFREW for Algiers and Egyptian GEORGES MABRO and Danish HILDE for Oran.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1900/19 to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

French troop movements. All evidence to date points to established resolve of French West African Colony to join with us whatever happens. Intend therefore to allow French troop movements on coast to continue as arranged as interference may exasperate local authorities and breed an atmosphere of distrust.
(C. in C. S.A. 0951/19).

Your 0951/19. Concur in your policy. Disembarkation of French native troops in French European or U.K. ports is impracticable. Request you arrange that British liners concerned in homeward berth should discharge these troops and resume their voyages to U.K. with least possible delay.
(D.O.D.(F) to C. in C. S.A. 2030/19).

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Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (Cont.)

French Guinea. Governor requests formal assurance that those French oversea colonies who continue fighting as our allies should be regarded as French territory and considered as France itself. (C. in C. S.A. 2001/19).

French Ships. Request you instruct Waring of Freetown that no deliveries of bunkeroils should be made to French ships without confirmation in each case from London. (D.T.D. 1853/19 to C. in C. S.A.).

Troops. My 0951/19. ACCRA is sailing for Dakar, troops on board are unarmed and untrained. Polish ship POLASKI under French charter is sailing for Konakri and Port Bouet with 95 wounded, mostly invalids. (C. in C. S.A. 2323/19).

Mediterranean.

French Attitude. French Deputy Chief of Staff here tells me not one of the Staff would not be ready to sign engagement to continue the war and even join the British Army. He added that if British Govt. will hold as at present at least one million French from all parts of world and especially from N. Africa will be fighting beside British next spring. (No.3. Mil.Mission Beyrouth 1405/19 to War Office)

Spain. Spanish situation, general uneasiness. Some evidence that military leaders for fear of British blockade are prepared to go to considerable lengths to avoid Spain entering war. Franco at present shares this view. Fate of French Fleet will affect attitude. Only extreme Fascist elements want to join in now. Military preparations almost entirely defensive. Army short of supplies. Petrol estimated only sufficient for three months' requirements. Food shortage grave. Navy unprepared and undermanned. Present dispositions normal. (N.A., Madrid, 1651/19, to C. in C., Med.)

Gibraltar. Situation normal. (Governor, 2300/19)

Situation as regards French is as follows :-

An Order of the Day dated 19 June has been received by Admiral Godfroy from Admiral Darlan stating no Armistice yet signed and that all Naval are expected to fight on, to fall back on North

(Africa

Situation as regards French is as follows :- (Ctd.)

Africa if necessary, and to blow up or scuttle themselves in emergency. Order is based on one issued by Petain. But B.N.L.O. Bizerta is doubtful about intention of Army and Air Force in Tunisia.

All French Services at Beirut have met and decided to fight on, basing this on a message from Darlan to fight to the end, and have asked their decision be conveyed to General Wavell and myself.

In general therefore all French Mediterranean Forces appear intended to continue the fight. I have sent suitable message to Senior Officers concerned giving them my sympathy and assuring them of all the support in my power.

The lodging of money at a bank in Alexandria for French Fleet by British Admiralty has created an excellent impression. (C. in C. Med.1815/19 to Admiralty.)

French Evacuation. British Government are offering shipping assistance to French authorities for evacuation from Marseilles to N. African ports. On assumption that offer will be accepted, all available British shipping in Southern French Ports, except that required for R.A.F. and military unit referred to in my 0041/17 to B.N.L.O. Toulon, is to be placed at their disposal. All British ships in ballast which can reach Marseilles within 48 hours have been ordered to proceed there. Importance is attached to evacuation of 6,000 Czech Troops and light equipment who have been directed to contact you and may arrive P.M./20th.
(D.O.D.(F) 2011/19 to D.S.T.O.Marseilles).

Mediterranean Operations

Submarine Sanctuary. Amending his 1235/27/5, sanctuaries for submarines. (C. in C., Med., 1445/19)

Q.B.Messages Commenting on his 0017/16. Suggests prefix Q.B. is used by C. in C. to promulgate secret messages on whole of Mediterranean Station and that prefixes Q.B.A., Q.B.B., and Q.B.C., be retained for confidential messages issued by S.O.I., Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria respectively. Request remarks. (D.M.S., 1343/19 to C. in C. Med.)

Air.

Hope you will press for 6 Hurricanes promised by Air Ministry on 17th. to be sent here before too late for them to re-fuel at Marseilles. Most important for civilian morale here. (Governor Malta 1056/19 to War Office).

There are 12 Swordfish of 767 Squadron on N.Coast of Africa. Request you arrange with B.N.L.O. Bizerta for as many as possible to be flown on to ARK ROYAL near Gibraltar from any suitable aerodrome

/in

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Mediterranean
Air

in French Algeria or Morocco. (D.N.A.D. 1358/19 to V.A.A.)

Enemy Intelligence

Enemy Units Two important units of Eastern Squadron near Dodecanese at 2100. D/F report. (Capt.ST. ANGELO 2306/19 to C.in C. Med.)

My 2306/19. Further bearings do not confirm. 5Q U was a mis-read call sign. 4 S D and another vessel using call sign. 2 O G were off Sapienza Island at 2100/19. Admiral Beirut informed. (Capt. O.S. NILE, 0635/20)

Shipping

My 1545/17. Any ships not yet sailed should be retained pending further instructions (D.T.D.0420/19 to N.C.S.O. Marseilles)

My 0231/19 and tels. 27 and 28 June 13 to F.O. It appears Turkey might be induced to institute some form of contraband control if diplomatic relations are broken off. Could be suggested that such control need not be exercised against U.S.S.R. ships. Might also be worth stressing that failure to take any action (? at the beginning) only help Allies whom Turks profess support but inflicting severe disadvantage on them. (C.in C., Med., to admty., 0345/19)

Evacuation from Marseilles. British Government are offering shipping assistance to French for evacuation from Marseilles to North African ports. On assumption that offer will be accepted all available British shipping in Southern French ports, except that required for R.A.F. and military unit referred to in my 0041/17 to B.N.L.O. Toulon is to be placed at their disposal.

2.All British ships in ballast who can reach Marseilles within 48 hours have been ordered to proceed there.

3.Important to evacuate 6,000 Czech troops and light equipment who have been directed to proceed to contact you and may arrive p.m./20. (D.O.D/F) 2011/19 to B.S.T.O. Marseilles)

East Indies.

Protection of British Somaliland. My 1911/15. I understand troops and guns very urgently required in British Somaliland and arrival may make difference between holding and withdrawal. If this is so, I am prepared to accept earliest possible arrival of transports at Berbera, protection being given without weakening convoy escort and by 2 lighters which A.O.C. Aden can provide (C. in C.E.119412/19 to Adty.)

East Indies (Ctd.)

Dispositions. KENT at Durban to escort convoy C.M.
CERES and CATHAY to escort convoy B.N.I. from Suez Canal to 55° East, then CERES to reinforce Red Sea Force and CATHAY to proceed Freetown.
ANTENOR in Ceylon Area, to proceed Bombay for convoy escort duties on arrival of WESTRALIA at Colombo.
RANCHI in Madagascar area patrolling. COLOMBO, CARTHAGE and French CARAIBE in Mombasa area. (C. in C.E.I., 1519Z/19)

Hospital Ships. Situation. F.O.C.C.R.I.N. asked to confirm list and particulars. (C. in C.E.I., 1056Z/19)

China.

Intend to keep an A.M.C. on patrol off Yangtse for the present as it may also prove of use if H.M. Government decide to evacuate troops from Shanghai (C. in C. China 1529Z/19)

Attitude to Dutch. Your 0955Z/12 and 0655Z/13. It is of great importance that no pretext should be afforded Japanese for any form of intervention in the war. In order therefore to obviate possibility of Japanese regarding present degree of collaboration between Dutch and ourselves as being directed against them you should avoid giving any appearance of close co-operation with the Dutch naval authorities and take the earliest opportunity of reducing extent of the present conversations as distinct from Intelligence vide D.N.I's 1954/13. In carrying out the above instructions you should proceed as tactfully as possible since it is important to avoid giving Dutch the impression that for reasons which might probably be obvious we no longer desire to coOoperate in helping them in emergency to safeguard their interests. Such impression might in the prevailing circumstances have the undesirable effect of making the Dutch susceptible to German and Japanese approaches. In no circumstances should action be taken which involves British and Dutch warships carrying out combined operations such as minelaying unless approval to do so is received from the Admiralty. (Adty. 1057/19. to V.A. Malaya.)

Shipping. Admty. 1406/18. Normal coasting trade with Indo-China may continue. Sailing of other ships is to be referred to me for decision. (C. in C., China, 0428Z/19)

New Zealand.

HECTOR Your 1229/17, re degaussing of HECTOR. It is not desired to release D.G. cable which has been freighted to New Zealand, having been purchased by Admiralty from U.S.A. (N.Z.N.B., to C.in C. East Indies, 1417/19)

New Zealand (Ctd.)

Darkened Ships. Allied merchant ships are being instructed to steam without navigation lights in area 11. (N.Z.N.B., 0708Z/19)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

AUCTORITAS TERESA	Correcting 1229/14. For ARABIA read AUCTORITAS, and for corrupt group TERESA. (C.in C.S.A., no T00/19)
CELLINA LIBANO	Ships and cargoes seized in prize. (C.C.O., Gibraltar, 1710/19)
ANTONIO LIMONCELLI	Arrived and left Maranhao 18th June. (S.O.I. Freetown 1629/19)
MONBALDO	Arrived Para. 16 June. (S.O.I. Freetown 1755/19 to Adty.)
CELLINA) LIBANO)	Seized in Prize. (C.C.O. Gibraltar 1710/19)

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships Attacked.

SS. TUDOR	Norwegian (6,607 tons) torpedoed and sunk 45°10'N 10°W. (108 miles N.W. of Finisterre) 0230/19. She was in same convoy as BARON LOUDUN.
SS. THE MONARCH	British 824 tons. Torpedoed 60 miles West of Belle Isle at 0040/19. (A/SWD 289, 20/6) Cargo of coal from Cardiff for France.
4 Lifeboats	Reported to have crew of torpedoed ship, attacked by submarine 1819 45°25'N 4°35'W (in Bay of Biscay).
BARON LOUDON	In homeward bound Gibraltar convoy, torpedoed 45°0'N 12°21'W. 190 miles N.W. Finisterre. (SCARBOROUGH 0037/19) GARDENIA, CALENDULA, ARABIS sent to hunt. (C. in CWA 0234/19) (SCARBOROUGH, 1800/19)
	A ship, name unknown, was torpedoed 120 miles S. of Ushant at 1812/19.
FLORIAN Chased	In convoy HGF 37, chased by submarine 45°10'N 11°40'W. convoy scattered (Gib.W/T0255/19]
VILLE DE NAMUR	Belgian 7463 tons. Torpedoed 120'S. of Ushant at 1430/19 (D.S.289)
ROSEBURN	British 5103 tons. Torpedoed and shelled off Dungeness at 2330/19 (D.S.289) (Cleethorpes W/T. 2359/19) (Later reported E - boats - see Operations).

Submarines reported.

0920.	U-boat reported 2 miles W. of Mull of Galloway, stering N., (B.2). (C. in C.,Rosyth, 1502/19)
0300/16	One unknown submarine reported off San Miguel, Azores, at 030/16. (A/S.W.D., 288, 19/6)
1930	54°40'N 4°58'W Reported by C.G. 1 Course N. B.2. (I.C.0487/40)
0255	45°10'N 11°40'W (about 150 miles N.W. of Cape Finisterre) by FLORIAN.
0013	By D/F 188° from Lands End probably between 47° and 48° (C. in CWA 0013/19) PUNJABI, HARVESTER to attack (C. in CWA 0014/19)
1014 & 1509	By D/F 47°40'N 9°W. Unreliable fix (C. in CWA 1110/19)
0037	45°0'N 12°21'W (ACWA 0441/19)
0330	47°14'N 5°17'W ?Sighted by OSPREY (C.in CWA 0424/19

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Submarines reported. (Ctd.)

1506	49°50'N 7°50'W seen by a/c. Al. (IC. 0487/40)
1945	D.F., Unknown enemy unit, probably U-boat 49°30'N., 8°30'W., unreliable fix. Al. (DDIC 2018/19)
1554	41°N., 10°W., (196° Finisterre 118 miles) Position indefinite A.l. (IC. 0487/40)
1712	46°25'N., 4°35'W. (D.D.I.C. 2126/19)
1430	108' N.W. of Finisterre. Attacked Norwegian TUDOR (D.S.289)
1812	46°20'N., 4°25'W. Attacked Belgian VILLE DE NAMUR. (D.S. 289)
2150	55°0'N., 5°32'W. A/C report. (D.S.289)
2158	Submarine reported 20 miles S.W. Ailsa Craig. GLEANER to investigate.
2150	(N.O.I.C. Belfast 2227/19) (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2254/19) Reported by PATELLA as 2158/I.C. 0487/40)
1130) 1230)	2 reports (D.4) of submarine off South Uist, 6 m. N. of the Sound of Barra. (C.in C.Rosyth 1630/19)

Possible dispositions :-

2 in Finisterre area, one in 45°10' N., 11°40' W. at 0255/19 the other may be farther west.
2 in Bay of Biscay
1 in Western Approaches
Possibly 1 S. of St. George's Channel
1 W. of Ireland homeward bound.
1 N.W. of Ireland, distance out unknown.
I Italian, possibly between Gibralta and Madeira. (I.C., 0486/40)

Note :- (D.D.I.C. 1106/19) U/B's were operating as far out as 17° W. on 16th and 17th June. (D.D.I.C., 1106/19)

1927-2010. 2 unidentified submarines, one sighted at 2010 in position 56°50' N., 03°00'E., co. 080, speed 10-12 knots. Dived as a/c approached. Submarine sighted at 1927 in position 56°21' N., 00°14' E., co. 275, dived on being sighted. Submarine sighted again 56°18' N., 01°00' E., at 2210, co. 260, speed 8-10 kts. Thought to be same submarine as seen at 1927. (Denibristle, 2330/19)

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Submarines Attacked.

1915 — A/S trawler VICTRIX attacked a contact 17 miles N.E. of Belfast at 1915/19. At 2158 s.s. PATELLA reported sighting a U-boat 15 miles north of this position. GLEANER ordered to search. (A/S.W.D., 289, 20/6)

GALILEO GALILEI Surrendered. — Italian submarine GALILEO GALILEI after long hunt and attack surrendered off Aden and is being towed into harbour (C.in C.E.I.1456/19 1804Z/19) of utmost importance to keep secret (1st S.L. 1856/19)

My 1804/19 MOONSTONE reports two D/C's brought S/M to surface, and S/M surrendered after four 4" hits at point blank range. 3 Officers and 37 Ratings captured and took passage in KANDAHAR and S/M under own power and with scratch crew expected enter Aden about 0300Z/20.
(C. in C. East Indies 0609Z/20 to Adty.)

Mediterranean.

Submarines Reported.

1230 — 31°05' N., 28°27' E., off Ras ed Dhaba, N. coast of Egypt. A/C report (D.S. 289).

Submarines Attacked.

DIAMOND'S second submarine now considered certain (F.O.I/C. Malta 1945/19)

1230 — Enemy submarine located at 1230/19 on sea bottom off Dhaba. Bombed by Blenheim of 211 Sqdn. Oil patch observed by a/c on sea surface at position of attack and the submarine periscope apparently broke surface. Submarine thought to be damaged, but no confirmation of sinking obtained.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 2119/19)

War Diary

20.6.40.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

France

French plans

French have decided that on approach of enemy to Bordeaux President of Republic and some Ministers will proceed overseas to carry on Govt. It is possible Weygand will go too. (D.N.I. 0031/20).

The position of the French appears to be similar to that of the Dutch, namely that the army has been overwhelmed bu the Govt. and the Fleet will continue to function from overseas.

Withdrawal of troops, Cotentin Peninsula

St. Nazaire has been evacuated. All British and 2,500 Polish troops have been taken off. 5 M.Vs have been sent to take off these and 5 destroyers are also to operate at the port.

S.N.O. has left La Pallice with the last of the British troops, and ships have also evacuated all the Polish troops there.

C. in C. Portsmouth reported at 0245/20 that 5000 Polish troops are reported fighting their way to St. Malo. He has ordered an air reconnaissance at dawn to ascertain if the Germans are still in possession of the town. SABRE is to proceed to Jersey and stand by to escort Dutch schoots to St. Malo if it is decided to attempt to evacuate the Poles.

Gironde Area

GALATEA and BERKELEY arrived at Arcachon this morning. Evacuation proceeded from Arcachon and Bordeaux. BEAGLE arrived at Bordeaux this morning with demolition party. After completing demolitions at Bordeaux she is to proceed to La Pallice for the same purpose.

Enemy aircraft laid parachute mines in the Channels at 0030/20. A passage was swept for ARETHUSA (out-going from Le Verdon) and BERKELEY.

All British subjects not evacuated from the Garonne River have been advised to proceed to Bayonne. A ship has been ordered there by ARETHUSA to evacuate refugees. 5000 Poles and an equal number of French Air Force mechanics and pilots are awaiting evacuation there.

War Diary

20.6.40.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

France

Disposal of French Fleet

JEAN BART with 2 destroyers, and Admiral Ouest in LE HARDI are on passage to Casablanca. PARIS has arrived at Plymouth, together with several minor units, destroyers OURAGAN, MISTRAL and submarine SURCOUF.

Several minor units have arrived at Falmouth and in the Portsmouth area.

EMILE BERTIN has arrived at Halifax, COURBET arrived Portsmouth, also destroyer LEOPARD, 3 submarines and other units.

Seizure of 4 Swedish Destroyers

4 Swedish destroyers which hadput in to the Faroe Islands for fuel on their way from Italy to Sweden, were seized under the right of angary.

Evacuation of Channel Islands.

Women and children were being evacuated from the Channel Is. during the night 19/20.

Air.

Raid on Scheveningen

F.A.A. aircraft attacked 2 large barges in the basin at Scheveningen last night. A large fire was started, but it is not known if the barges were hit.

Raid on Ymuiden

During the night 19/20, 2 Hudsons carried out an attack on Ymuiden docks, with apparent success.

Raid on England

Bombs were dropped in Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire and in the Southampton area, where 4 of the 7 ammunition magazines at Marchwood were destroyed together with one third of the stock of Oerlikon cartridges. At Cardiff 6 bombs were dropped at 0100/20 in the dock area, badly damaging S.S. STRESSO, but causing no casualties.

War Diary

20.6.40.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Belfast is temporarily closed.

Magnetic mines have been found near Lowestoft and in the Harwich area. Other mines are reported from the Bristol Channel; 6 were detected near the position where the JAMES MC GEE was sunk.

Enemy aircraft laid mines at Bordeaux this morning. 2 mines have been swept off North Island, New Zealand.

Italian Operations

Italian Submarine Sunk

H.M. Submarine PARTHIAN sank an Italian submarine off the North Coast of Libya at 1530/20. She also attacked the cruiser SAN GIORGIO at Tobruk on 19/6 but without success, and reports greatly increased surface and anti submarine activity.

GALILEO GALILEI Captured

Italian submarine, with 3 officers and 37 ratings, has been captured after an action with MOONSTONE and taken to Aden. The C.O. and several officers were killed.

12 Swordfish aircraft of the F.A.A. arrived at Malta p.m.

War Diary

20.6.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Scapa

Blockships EMPIRE SEAMAN and EMERALD WINGS being sailed for Scapa from Portsmouth as soon as possible. Tankers INVERLANE and PROETESILAUS are preparing and should be ready in about one months time.

Table-cloth net has proved efficient against British M.T.Bs but these have no effective propellor guards yet. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1542/20 to A.C.O.S.)

Policy

Employment of Corvettes

As from noon/21 corvettes are to cease routine patrol duties and will be employed to reinforce close escorts of FN and FS convoys. Arrangements. (C. in C., Nore 2118/20 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

Movements

Submarines

Positions and movements at 0600/21. (V.A.S. 1747/20; 2341/20, D.C. 1843/20).

FORFAR

Orders (F.O.C.N.P. 1610/20).

MONARCH OF BERMUDA

Leaves Clyde 0001/21 carrying Italian diplomats and with safe conduct from enemy. Route etc. (Hd. of M. 2019/20).

A/S Patrol off Tory Island.

Area N. and N.W. of Tory Island has lately become a happy hunting ground for U-boats. Today 2 have been reported and 1 merchant ships torpedoed while CARINTHIA and S.S. EROS were recently torpedoed all in this area. Although fully aware of the acute shortage of adequate A/S craft I consider it very important that a permanent patrol of A/S Surface Craft should be established there at least until the U-boat nuisance in the vicinity abates. At present, in the event of a U-boat being reported in this area, the nearest destroyer is probably in the Clyde, a distance of about 180 miles. Earlier in the war I suggested the possibility of dropping depth charges from aircraft. I would again suggest that this method of attack might well prove effective in the above area and that old type aircraft, unfit for North Sea Operations, might be used. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1629/20 to Adty.)

War Diary

20.6.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Coast of France

Polish troops

5000 Polish troops reported fighting their way to St. Malo. It is desired to evacuate them if possible. Dutch Schoots ordered to Jersey for this, and SABRE to proceed to St. Helier and stand by to escort Schoots to St. Malo. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0246/20 to SABRE)

Sailed ALDERPOOL with 4,000 Polish troops for Falmouth. (MACKAY 0600/20 to A.C.W.A.)

No more British or Polish troops in La Pallice. (MACKAY 0801/20).

No fighters available

Success of further evacuation from St. Nazaire and La Pallice depends on A/A fire as no Fighters are available. Request A/A cruisers be provided. (C. in C., W.A. 0832/20 to Adty.) Proceed to Bayonne. End 0616/20 (C. in C., W.A. 0927/20).

BATORY Polish Divn.

Polish Divn. is assembling at Le Verdon. Request all shipping be re-directed there. (B.N.L.O. Bordeaux 0943/20 to A.C.W.A.). French flag flying at St. Malo. 3 oil tanks still intact (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 0810/20).

Bayonne

Requirements for shipping at Bayonne extremely urgent. Minimum 1000 Military and Refugees there now relying on transport. Garonne River handed over to French and Polish authorities. (B.N.L.O. Bordeaux 1032/20 to C. in C., W.A.) Carryout orders in my 0246 and 1119. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1246/20 to SABRE)

Polish army

Polish Army now assembling Leverey 5000, La Rochelle 10,000. Request shipping be diverted accordingly. (Mr. Campbell, Bordeaux 1229/20 to A.C.W.A.)

F.O. 2nd C.S. to arrange evacuation as soon as possible provided no undue risk from air attack or magnetic mines. Polish Divn. at Le Verdon and 3000 French Air Force mechanics and pilots. (A.C.W.A. 1351/20 to F.O.C. 2 C.S.)

Am leaving for Perpignan with Ambassador today 20th (B.N.L.O. Bordeaux 1415/20 to Adty.)

War Diary

20.6.40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Coast of France

Polish army

ARETHUSA expects arrive Plymouth 0600/21, with President of Poland and staff, British Ambassador at Poland, and staff British Embassies Warsaw, Brussels, Paris. (C. in C., W.A. 2105/20 to Adty.)

Sail one destroyer forthwith to Port Vendres to transport H.M. Ambassador and party of nine to North Africa. (D.O.D.F. 2246/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Bordeaux

Wireless set is being dismantled 1600/20. (B.N.L.O. Bordeaux 1400/20 to Foreign Office).

Endeavour to get in touch with B.N.L.O. Bordeaux and evacuate anyone he requires (F.O.C. 2 C.S. 1855/20 to BEAGLE).

Situation as to number to be evacuated.

Still obscure. Communication with Bordeaux open by road only no telephone or train. BERKELEY in company (F.O.C. 2 C.S. 1920/20).

Le Verdon

ST. HELIER and LADY OF MANN to proceed Le Verdon for water and to embark any troops there unless otherwise ordered by F.O.C. 2nd C.S. (A.C.W.A. 2211/20 to MACKAY, F.O.C. 2 C.S.)

List of ships which sailed for Falmouth from Le Verdon 19/6, 20/6 (ARETHUSA 1152/20).

Channel Islands

Evacuation

Please inform me at once Govt. Policy as to Channel Islands. If civil population to be evacuated Ministry of shipping must take up ships. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1317/20 to Adty.)

Your 1317/20. Home Office has decided that it is not the policy to evacuate Channel Islands. Crown Officials are staying and it is expected that major portion of population will stay too. Arrangements in hand for evacuating 17,000 from Jersey and 13,000 from Guernsey. (D. of S.T. 2127/20 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Your 1317/20. Island Govts. have been informed that we would be ready to receive in the United Kingdom such inhabitants of the Channel Islands as the Island Authorities wished to evacuate to this country under arrangements to be made and financed by them. (D.O.D.(H) 1527/20 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

War Diary

20.6.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Channel Islands

Evacuation (Contd.)

Your 1815/20 approved for Schoots to evacuate civilians from Jersey as Governor directs. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2137/20 to SABRE) .

Your 0948 am escorting transport. Please confirm that orders as to Dutch Schoots are cancelled. (SABRE 1025/20 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

SABRE reports there are still about 15,000 people in Jersey. S.T.O. requires all available small craft. 1112 Ends. (C. in C.,Portsmouth 1222/20 to Adty.)

Seizure of Swedish Destroyers at Faroe Is.

Swedish destroyers should be boarded and informed H.M. Govt. have decided that to safeguard them against probable capture by Germans the Govt. has decided to seize them. Remove crews and bring them to Clyde, using force if necessary. Leave small care and maintenance parties in Swedish destroyers at Thorshaven. Treat Swedish crews with every consideration. (D.O.D.H. 0026/20 to D.6).

Oiler CASTOR arriving Thorshaven now. Request instructions this ship and Depot ship PATRICIAD. (Capt. D.6 0540/20 to Adty.).

Your 0540/20. Destroyers only should be seized. Leave one of your destroyers to prevent their recapture by Swedes if satisfied this adequate; and ensure that tanker and depot ship do not use their W/T (D.O.D.H. 0721/20 to D.6)

My 0721/20. If Swedish crews can ce accommodated in Tanker and Depot ship they should be put on board and released. Report whether you can steam Swedish destroyers to Clyde. (D.O.D.H. 20/6

Your 0857/20. Yes. Consider this is best arrangement and request approval to do so. Senior Officer has requested this information regarding himself and I have approved it should they accede to my demand. (Capt. D.6 1002/20 to Adty.)

Proceed with Swedish destroyers to Scapa. (D.O.D.H. 20/6).

My 1002/20. Demand accepted. Am transferring crew to CASTOR and PATRICIAD in anticipation of approval. (Capt. D.6 1101/20 to Adty.)

War Diary

20.6.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norway

Battle-Cruiser torpedoed

At 1535/20, H.M.S. CLYDE in a position 60 miles north of Trondheim Fiord sighted one enemy battle-cruiser, one pocket battleship, and a destroyer proceeding in a N.W. direction. CLYDE attacked the battle-cruiser and made one hit. See Enemy Intelligence.

Iceland

701 Sqdn., Force "Profit"

Re accommodation (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 0029/20, D. of L.D. 1314/20, Alabaster, Reykjavik, 1348/20, S.O.I., Iceland 1401/20, D.V.A.D. 1831/20.

Fishing Craft

Requesting they may be issued with British identification papers. (C. in C. H.F.,1824/20).

Air.

British Air Activity

Reconnaissance at Christiansund and coastwise to Stavanger. 2 M/Vs observed at 58:00 N., 1:28 E., (Donibristle 1830/20).

Skuas for attacks on Norway

In order to resume air offensive operations in Norway request that a formation of nine skuas be sent to Hatston. It is realised that this may deplete I.R. Aircraft but as the type is no longer in production the time must come when replacements cannot be provided. There can therefore be little harm in anticipating this moment by employing some of the remaining aircraft in the type of offensive operation in which they have proved themselves to be so suitable. (C. in C., H.F. 1201/20).

Your 1201/20. Owing to recent loan of 38 pilots to R.A.F. and the recall of 7 others, it is impossible toform any further First Line Squadrons at present except those already approved for new construction.

301 Squadron now at Detling could be transferred to Hatston and re-equipped with 12 Skuas. Request conformation that accommodation will be available at Hatston. (D.N.A.D. 1856/20 to C. in C., H.F.).

War Diary

20.6.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Enemy Air Activity

Raid on England Damage at Cardiff. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0259/20). Damage at Marchwood (C. in C. Portsmouth 1033/20, S.A.S.O. F.O.I.C.Southampton 0924/20. Priddy's Hard, 0854/20).

S.S. STRESSO 1292 tons damaged by air attack in Cardiff docks 0100/20.
British (2290 tons). Reported sunk (Air Min. Daily Summary 337).

S.S. MALINES British (2980 tons)attacked 0115/20 by aircraft in Channel. Under Govt. charter.

BRUMAIRE Fr. tanker, 7638 tons, attacked by aircraft 47:10 N., 3:40 W. off Belle Isle, 1350/20. (Lands End Radio 1350/20).

BRITANNY Brit. 4722 tons, attacked by aircraft off Belle Isle, 14 59/20 (D.C.N.S. 291).

P.L.M.16 Fr. 3574 tons, attacked by aircraft 45:46 N., 1:40 W. (off Rochefort) 1916/20, but proceeded on her course. (Lands End Radio 1820/20).

Use of Allied marking on A/c by enemy R.A.N.A.S. 1756/20.

Calais patrol Yesterday the Germans maintained a standing patrol over the Calais area. This probably indicates some activity which it is desired to conceal. (C.I.C. Report No. 20).

War Diary

20.6.40
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Bordeaux. Enemy A/C laid parachute mines at 0030 this morning and it is believed Channel N. of St. George's Bank and also main channel near Talais Bank buoy are mined. (ARETHUSA 0501/20 to BEAGLE)

Enemy Intelligence

Main units sighted. One Battleship and one Battle Cruiser bearing 335 position 64°43' N., 9°53' E. (CLYDE 2234/20)

Battle Cruiser torpedoed. One Battle Cruiser, one Pocket Battleship, one Destroyer in position C.X.R.R.4353 course 335°. Attacked Battle Cruiser. One hit (CLYDE 2235/20 to Adty.)

7 destroyers. Five Destroyers course 90° my position 53°21' N., 5°4' E., (A/C report 1012/20) joined by 2 more. Attacked. Result not observed (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1445/20)

5 destroyers. Bomber Command A/C reports: Five Destroyers 53°48' N., 6°50' E.

2 Cruisers. at 0155/20, course W.15 knots; Two Cruisers and Two Destroyers 53°48' N., 6°40' E., at 0200/20, course W.; and three large ships type unknown at 51°50' N., 3°52' E. at 2343/19 (D.C.0710/20)

10 M.V's. 53° 20' N. 5°16' E., (A/C 1100/20)
6 vessels, 2 of which were warships 53°21' N., 5°12' E., 2340/20(A/C report) (I.C.0489/40)

Shipping.

RONWYN. British, 1766 tons.)
HESTER. British, 1199 tons,) Put out of action in Rochefort on 18/6 to prevent their use by the enemy. (D.S. 21/6)
JACOB CHRISTENSEN, Norwegian)
3594 tons

Adty.Mge.B.R. Instruction contained in Adty. Mge.B.R. no longer applies to ships bound for French Colonial ports outside the Mediterranean. (Adty.Mge.B.T. 1208/20)

Convoy Routes Owing to U-boats operating further West than usual convoy is now routed through TF MH 00 00 and is not to disperse till that position has been reached (C. in C.W.A. 1311/200 to FOWEY)

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping. (Ctd.)

Convoy routes (Ctd.) To enable greater protection to be given to O.A. and H.A. convoys in the Channel it is proposed to institute the following:-

(1) H.A.Convoys, having the more valuable cargoes, route.
(2) O.A. Convoys, route.
(3) (4) Arrangements for ships joining.
(5) Change to commence with convoys H.X.49 and O.A.172 (C. in C.W.A.2024/20)

A Message Cancel 1940/17. British Merchant ships have now been instructed to inform all French Merchant ships met at sea that many ports in France are now occupied by the Germans and that they are therefore strongly advised not repetition not to proceed to such ports. Similar action is to be taken by H.M. Ships. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2302/20)

All ships bound up Channel, including those in Convoy, to pass Dungeness during daylight hours (A.C.N.S.(T) 1319/20)

WEATHER

	Wind	Weather	Visibility
North Sea	Northerly, moderate.	Cloudy. A few showers in central area.	Mainly good
Horns Reef	Northerly, Light to moderate.	Fair to cloudy	Good
Channel	Northerly, moderate.	Fair to cloudy	Good
W.Approaches	Northerly, moderate.	Fair to cloudy	Good

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

SIVRIHLSAP — Minelayer, should be routed round Cape (V.C.N.S. 2051/20 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Sail one destroyer forthwith with despatch to Port Vendres to transport H.M. ambassador to North Africa. (D.O.D.(F) 2246/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic

Your 1900/18. Air Ministry did not issue these orders. Presume they do not emanate from the French. Unfortunately no prospect of sending you Flying Boats in near future. (D.O.D.F. 0034/20 to C. in C.S.A.)

Mediterranean.

General.

Cannes. — 1,000 British stranded. Immediate evacuation necessary. (Sharrocks, Cannes, 0810/20). (D.C. to F.O.C.N.A. 2220/20). Your 2220, in view of your 0144/21 have now no ship to send to Cannes. (F.O./C. Gibraltar 0620/21)

Works. — Do not hesitate to undertake immediately any works that in your opinion may be of value in present emergency. (Civil Lord to C. in C.Med. 1752/20)

British and French policy. — Gist of telegram received today by Mittelhauser from Weygand. Owing to situation of Army and difficulty of feeding civilian population we have been obliged to approach German and Italian Governments. This does not mean cessation of hostilities and still less capitulation. Armies although sorely tried and separated are still fighting magnificently. Tell those around you that for moment there is no question of ceasing fire.

Para. 2. C.in C. and A.O.C.in C. flew here this morning to see Mittelhauser. Agreement in principle was reached over following (?decisions). (a) Mutual assistance between British and French air forces in Syria and Egypt. (b) Possible assistance and troops in Egypt. (c) Setting up of joint Middle East planning committee to include French staff officers. (d) Setting up of Anglo French War Council for Mediterranean. Visit was a great success and in all respects there appears to be common point of view.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean.

General (Ctd.)

British and French policy (Ctd.) Para. 3. Although in view of high morale at present existing likelihood of capitulation here seems remote I suggest broad preparation should be made now in Palestine to received large influx of French material and personnel in the event of the worst happening here. On all sides wish has been expressed to join British Army if necessary. General Massiet commanding expeditionary force here told me he would immediately join Foreign Legion if British formed one. (No.8 (Salisbury Jones Mission to W.O.1920/6)

Operations.

Threat to Bosphorous Ambassador Ankara tel.572, 17/6 to F.O. Am in general agreement. Feel if Bosphorous were seriously threatened, primary interest to us to provide support to Turkey there. Desirable to avoid a definite commitment, but statement might be made that we should regard an attack on Straits as of first priority and certainly endeavour to send naval support. (C. in C. Med. 1817/20).

Crete Vague rumour that Italians have demanded bases in Crete, also that Cretan Governor-General and Prefects left today for Greece. (N.A. Athens, 2013/20).

PARTHIAN unsuccessfully attacked Italian cruiser SAN GIORGIO in Tobruk harbour 19/6 (C. in C.Med. 2315/20). Air reconnaissance 20/6 reported 3 cruisers, 3 destroyers, 2 submarines at Marsa, Tobruk The SAN GIORGIO is still aground (I.C.0489/40) One destroyer or flotilla leader at Bardia (31°45'N 25°10'E) (I.C.0489/40).

Air.

Swordfish for Malta. B.N.L.O. 4th Region's 2143/18 request all 24 Swordfish aircraft or at least half of them may be flown to Malta where there is ample reserve. The aircraft will form a most useful striking force as well as being invaluable in defence of Island. They will also provide reserve for H.M.S.EAGLE. (C. in C.Med. 0827/19. to Adty.)

Mining.

Mines in position 300° R.E.T. 17 miles (Malta, 2055/20) (? Ras-el-tin, Alexandria.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean. (Ctd.)

Enemy Intelligence

C.M.B's. Bulgaria. Hitler has given four C.M.B's to Bulgaria, arrival expected shortly. (A.l.) (N.A. Athens, 1737/20).

Italian Fleet. Yugo-Slav General Staff informs me that Italian Fleet is now at Taranto. (Belgrade 2035/20 to C. in C. Med.)

East Indies

Orders for Shipping. Governor Ceylon instructed by Colonial Office to delay sailing of French ships; and that Norwegian, Dutch, Polish, and neutral ships may proceed to French ports outside Mediterranean. Request confirmation. May British ships proceed to French India, Madagascar, Reunion. Consider Jibuti should still be out of bounds. (C. in C.E.I. 0654/20 to Adty.)

PARAMATTA YARRA Are intended as reinforcements. DERBY AND HUNTLEY will not be withdrawn unless the minesweeping situation in Mediterranean renders necessary (A.C.N.S.(F) 1631/20 to C. In C.E.I.)

Centre Peak I. Hut destroyed by H.M.A.S. HOBART's a/c. No submarines or E boats seen. (C.in C.E.I.0611Z/20)
W/T

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

VENTA Latvian, 1886 tons, is now sailing under the German flag. Had been detained by the Germans at Hamburg on January 5. (D.S. 21/6)

MARITZA Last reported at Sibenik 18/6 was communicating with Fiume and Venice at 0115/20 and was due at Pola 0800/20 (N/T Intercept).

CORDELIA V.C.Bourgas reports she loaded cargo 13/6 said to contain war material sailed Batoum. Returned Bourgas for bunkers just after with cargo still on board sailed for Batoum 17/6. (Beyeglu 1757/20)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CONTE ROSSO Left Ancona 20/6 with staff of British Embassy. Has been ordered into Cantanic in Sicily to await the safe conduct of British Govt. for passage to Lisbon. (D.S.)

War Diary

20.6.40
Thursday

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS (Ctd.)

MARZOCCO.	5106 tons, beached off Peterhead after scuttling herself on 10/6, has now been abandoned and hopes of salvage given up.
SERDICA.	1533 tons, was at Ferrol, Spain, on 18/6.
GUIDONIA	5060 tons, reported to have been arrested at Norfolk, Va., by Asiatic Petroleum Co.
MONBALDO	6214 tons, arrived at Para, Brazil, from Norfolk, Va., on 18/6
FRISCO	1582 tons, reported to have arrived at Ceara.
FORTUNATA.	2715 tons, which was reported to have been sunk by the French, the crew being landed at Teneriffe, is now said to have been towed into Santa Cruz, Canary Islands.
AMELIA LAURO seized.	Should be added to list of ships seized in British ports 11/6. Ship was undergoing repairs at Immingham (I.C.0487 /40)

War Diary

20.6.40
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Ships Attacked.

ANDALUSIAN	torpedoed at 1404. 120' W. of Ushant (A.S.W.D. Report 289) still being chased at 1500. Had been in Convoy H.G.F.34 with a general cargo for Liverpool. (D.C.N.S.291 says she was in convoy H.G.F.34) Chased 48°36' N., 7°51' W., steering 060° mean. (Landsend Radio 1501/20) Torpedoed 48°32'N., 8°3' W., (Landsend 1404/20).
EMPIRE CONVEYOR Sunk	British, 5911 tons, torpedoed 1230/20 and sunk 80 miles west of Mull. Four of the crew, including Master, missing. 37 survivors taken on board H.M.S. CAMPBELL. Was proceeding independently from Montreal to Manchester. (CAMPBELL 1911/20)
JAMES MCGEE Sunk	Panamanian, 9859 tons, mined and sunk off the Foreland, Bristol Channel. Bound from Trinidad to Brest, but had been diverted to Bristol Channel. (Nore W.K.1456/20)
FELLSIDE Escaped	British, 3509 tons, chased by submarine 48°43' N., 8°19' W., 1951/20. Cargo of iron ore from Bougie for the Tees. Was in convoy H.G. 34. (Portishead Radio 1951/20)
TILIA GORTHEN Sunk	Swedish (1776 tons) torpedoed and sunk by submarine thought to be Italian, 80 miles S. of Scilly. LEITH Picked up 11 survivors (D.C.N.S.292)
OTTERPOOL Sunk	British, 4867 tons, torpedoed 1943/20 and sunk 124 miles west of Ushant, 45°N., 8°15'W. (Lands End T.O.R.2049/20)
LABUD	Yugoslav, 5334 tons, torpedoed off Fastnet (? time) Crew landed at Clonekilty.
Trawlers	U-boat reported 1009 52°40' N., 2°12' E., by trawlers which were attacked and set on fire (Chatham 1135/20). U-boat sighted submerging at 1030. (C. in C. Nore 1045/20). Your 1045 no burning trawlers in position. Consider report erroneous. 2 sets of 4 M/S trawlers near. (WILD SWAN 1319/20 to C.in C. Nore) See U-Boat Camp.
Swedish ship name uncertain	Torpedoed 0303/20 in 48°32' N., 6°20' W. (I.C. 0489/40)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING (Ctd.)

Estimated dispositions.

2 in Finisterre Area
1 in Bay of Biscay
2 in Western Approaches
1 in 56° 18' N., 8°59' W., at 0805/20 and
1 in 60°32' N., 5°18' W., at 1030/20 may both be homeward bound.
1 Italian may be in Atlantic W. of Gibraltar but there are no indications of her whereabouts. (D.D.I.C. 1226/20)

Submarines reported.

1500	27°25' N., 15°55' W., (35 miles S.W. Grand Canary) reported by French BOUGAINVILLE to have dived 8 miles distant. B.3. (K.0489/40)
2100/19	150° Sandra Light 158. Rep.by PATELLA in Convoy (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1140/20)
2050 B.S.T.	Submarine presumed enemy 41°22' N., 3°10' W., (Oran Radio 2013/20)
2035	57°50' N., 3°38' E., by a/c. (C. in C. Rosyth 0040/21) Note Probably Dutch. (Donibristle 2340/20)
0505	60°11' N., 3°0' E., sighted on surface. (Donibristle 0735/20)
1004	See ships attacked.
0818	45' S.S.W. of Barra Head (A.S.W.D. Report 289)
0805	56°18' N., 8°59'W., (about 78 miles off Malin Hd.) by a/c.
1627	By D/F 57° N., 3°E., unreliable fix (D.D.I.C.1700/20
1030	60°32' N., 6°42' W., by a/c. BUTTERMERE AND WINDERMERE hunting (F.O.C.S. 1129/20)
1030	52°40'N., 2°12' E., (C. in C. Nore 1045/20 to VANESS
1208	30' North of Muckle Flugga (R.A.(D) H.F. to ZULU)
1210	56°16'N., 8°10'W., by A/C. (F.O.C.N.P.1610/20, N.O. I/C Greenock 1542/20).Considered not same submarine as 0805 above (C.in C. Rosyth 1426/20)
1430	48°32' N., 8°3' W. ANDALUSIAN chased by submarine (Lands End Radio).
1416	57°50' N., 5°E., D/F report. (D.D.I.C.1440/20)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING (Ctd.)

Submarines reported. (Ctd.)

1130	56°16' N., 8°10'W. (D.D.I.C.1349/20 to Ships)
2330 B.S.T.	By D/F 57030' N., 4°20' E. Unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 0002/21)
1951	48°43' N., 8°19' W., (D.D.I.C.2237/20)
1304	48°32' N., 8°3' W. (D.D.I.C.2025/20)
1030	Reported by a/c , 60°32' N., 05°18' W., 130' W.S.W. of Muckle Flugga.
1835	48°50' N., 8°19' W., 140' off Ushant, reported by a/c (C. in C.W.A. 1906/20)
2150	Reported by s.s. CITY OF AUCKLAND, 5 miles N. of Toward Point, Clyde. (N.O. I/C Greenock 2351/20)
1730	13 miles S.E. Capo Carbonara (Scapa U/T Rec. 2126/20
0949	By D/F 50°50' N., 12°30' W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1039/21)

Submarines attacked.

1030	60°32' N., 6°42' W., by A/C apparently surfacing but submerged immediately. Estimate 2 hits and submarine put out of action. (Donibristle.Recd. 1308/20, C. in C. Rosyth 1316/20, a/c 1030/20).
1915	Attacked by A/C at 62°28' N., 4°22' E. (C. in C. Rosyth 0040/21, Donibristle 2215/20)
1829	By A/C escorting convoy O.A.170, 48°50' N.,8°19' W., One bomb fell 0 yards astern, one 30 yards ahead. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 2235/20)

Mediterranean.

Submarines reported.

Submarine at Ceuta	Italian submarine still in Ceuta (A/C 1100/20)

Submarines attacked.

Submarine sunk	PARTHIAN on date not yet known sank Italian submarine in 32°42' N., 23°49' E. (C. in C. Med. 2315/20) Time 1530/20 (I.C.0489/40)

SITUATION REPORT

German Naval Units Out.

German battle cruiser torpedoed

At 2334 one enemy battle-cruiser, one pocket battleship, and a destroyer were sighted 60 miles north of Trondheim by H.M. submarine CLYDE, which attacked the battle-cruiser and made one hit.

Dispositions made by C. in C. H.F.

The following dispositions were made. 18th C.S. (MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM, SHEFFIELD and YORK) left Rosyth 0630/21 to rendezvous with NEWCASTLE and SUSSEX 80 miles E. of Scapa at 1500 and proceed towards Stadlandet. SUNFISH was ordered to Heligoland Bight, WILK to a position 30 miles S.W. of Lister, and SEVERN to Utsire. Battle-cruisers and battleships in Scapa were brought to one hour's notice. 3 Blenheim aircraft and a Sunderland were ordered to search for the enemy force.

At 1215/21 RENOWN and REPULSE, screened by 5 destroyers, left Scapa for the same rendezvous as the cruisers.

Battlecruiser sighted

At 1115/21 a Hudson aircraft of Coastal Command on reconnaissance sighted and reported one battlecruiser and 6 destroyers off the entrance to Sogne Fiord steering a southerly course at 25 knots. This aircraft together with a Sunderland already searching in the area were ordered to shadow, while 6 more Hudsons were sent to attack.

At 1230/21 the 18th C.S. was still 60 miles away from the prearranged rendezvous with NEWCASTLE and SUSSEX and had altered course to the eastward at 30 knots.

Attack by Swordfish with torpedoes

At 1450/21 a Sunderland aircraft sighted and reported one Battlecruiser and 7 destroyers steering South at 20 knots. This aircraft continued to shadow, and between 1510 and 1520 6 Swordfish aircraft of F.A.A. attacked the battlecruiser with torpedoes. The battlecruiser was not hit, but one of the destroyer screen was possibly hit. Two of the Swordfish were shot down.

Bombing attack

Meanwhile, 6 Beauforts and 6 Hudsons of Coastal Command had left Hatston, and between 1620 and 1650 these attacked the battle-cruiser (SCHARNHORST) with bombs, obtaining at least one hit near the stern. Four aircraft were shot down.

At 2100.....

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SITUATION REPORT

German Naval Units Out.

Bombing attack (Contd.)

At 2100, after receiving a number of conflicting aircraft reports C.S. 18 considered that the enemy battlecruiser had probably entered Haugesund, and he therefore, decided, in view of the probability of heavy enemy air attack, to continue his search to the southward until midnight, and then to return with all his forces to Scapa. Enemy fighters had driven off our shadowing aircraft.

Battlecruiser again sighted

However, at 2250 a final report was received from the pilot of one of the the Coastal Command shadowing aircraft that at 1930 the battle cruiser was, infact, about 40 miles S.W. of Haugesund, steering South

2 Cruisers sighted

and at 20 knots, while 2 enemy cruisers and 5 destroyers were some 35 miles N.W. of her, steering north at the same speed.

C.S.18 turns Northward

By this time the 18th C.S. was to the Southward of the SCHARNHORST, with the remainder of his force 70 miles to the north-westward; and at 2355 C.S.18 decided to carry out a final sweep to the northward with his ships spread 5 miles apart, before abandoning the search.

Our forces withdrawn

From 2030 our forces were shadowed continuously and attacked by enemy aircraft; visibility was good, with a full moon and no period of darkness. At 0123, since it appeared that the battlecruiser had probably entered Stavanger or had possibly passed to the southward C. in C. H.F. ordered our forces to withdraw at high speed. Enemy aircraft continued to shadow them on passage. Fighter protection was given for the the return passage.

Withdrawal of troops from France

Evacuation of Polish troops from Bordeaux continued today. BERKELEY reported 700 Poles at Leberdan and that at least 4,000 might be expected at Bayonne. SOBIESKY and BATORY have been sent to this area.

421 British and 6988 Allied troops were landed today at West Country ports. Up to 1200/21 the following had been evacuated:-

British fit	124,841
Casualties	2,193
Allied troops	4,410

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SITUATION REPORT

Evacuation of Channel Is.

The completion of the military evacuation which was completed by 0700/21 (W.O. Summary). Arrangements are being made to take off those civilians who wish to leave today.

Preparations for Invasion

There appear to be restrictions on the apparent use of the plentiful shipping known to be in German ports, which emphasises the desirability of reconnaissance of the North Sea exit from the Kiel Canal, the Belts, and Skagerrak (C.I.C. Report 22).

Photographs taken today show great constructural activity at Schipoland barge activity in neighbouring canals.

At 0845/21 100 or more covered barges were seen lying between Maasluis and Rotterdam, tied up in threes. They were estimated to be 300 ft. long. 6 barges were seen in the harbour at Maasluis. At 1300/21 many similar barges were seen in the waterways at Krammer Volkerak, Baringvliet, and Costerschelde.

Air.

R/C's — Normal patrols were flown during 21/6, and reconnaissance flights were made to the Heligoland Bight, Christiansund North, Trondheim and Aalborg.

Gunboat sunk — 9 Hudson aircraft sank a gunboat and 2 M.Vs in harbour at Willemscoord (Texel) pm/21.

Coast battery attacked — A F.A.A. Squadron attacked a new heavy shore battery, ~~believed 4 7 inch guns~~, near Calais at 1420/21 and obtained 4 direct hits and several near misses.

2 Albacores shot down — 6 Albacores of F.A.A. which were carrying out a search for M.Vs in the Texel area, became separated and were attacked, 2 being shot down.

Losses 21/6 — C.C. 5 aircraft.
F.A.A. 5 aircraft.

Damage at Hamburg — It is believed that the shipbuilding yards of Blohm and Voss of Hamburg have suffered severely from British air raids. A number of damaged ships from these yards are reported to have been sent to Denmark for repair.

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SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Belfast is open again. Avonmouth is closed. All ports East of Barry are also closed.

Miscellaneous

Portugal — Although the policy of the Portuguese Govt. is pro Ally the entry of Spain into war with us might force similar decision on Portugal.

ILLUSTRIOUS — New aircraft carrier left Devonport pm with destroyer escort, for Bermuda.

Italian Hostilities

Air raids — There were 5 air raids on Malta today, causing 34 casualties; the floating dock was badly damaged during a raid early am; its back was broken and it sank later.

Marsa Matruh was raided am/21. No appreciable damage was done and there were no casualties.

Bigerta was bombed on the night 19/20.

Bombardment of Bardia — A force consisting of ORION, NEPTUNE, SYDNEY and LORRAINE (French battleship) with destroyers in company, under R.A.(D) carried out a bombardment of military objectives at Bardia at 0600/21 and obtained good results. French cruisers SUFFREN, DUGUAY TROUIN and British destroyers carried out a sweep along the coast as far as Marsa-Tobruk at the same time, with no result.

Air attack on Tobruk — An air attack was made on Italian warships in Tobruk in conjunction with the bombardment at Bardia, resulting in heavy smoke rising from one large ship after the attack.

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DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

Naval Chief of General Staff Algiers states practically all French Fleet now in British or French North Africa ports. General intention French fighting forces is to carry on war from Africa regardless of terms agreed to by French Govt. Naval authorities very anxious to continue co-operation with British. Morale of 3 services excellent. (B.N.L.O. Algiers, 1853/21).

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Northern Ireland — Guns for Magilligan Point and Larne. (Belfast 1837/20).

West of England — No order yet given for schemes for immobilisation for immediate use at ports on West Coast of England. No steps should therefore be taken at these ports at present which will in any way hamper the full use of all port facilities, and it is not intended at present to earmark any ships as blockships. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1721/21).

Folkestone — UMVOTI to be placed in position blocking Folkestone, but not to be sunk yet except in emergency. (D. of L.D. 1605/21).

Nore net Defence — Additional defences in the form of sausage net to be laid across the river from the pile obstruction at Scar's Elbow, and across Lower Hope Reach, 1000 yards below Coal House Battery. (D. of B.D. to C. in C., Nore, 1552/21).

Orkneys — Considered that proposed controlled minefield between Shapinsay and Gairsay has assumed increased importance in view of probability of this entrance being rushed by enemy ships. Consider minefield should be completed at an early date. Further proposals for mine loops. (A.C.O.S., 1530/21).

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Submarines — Positions 0600/22 and movements (V.A.(S) 2031/21 D.C. 2245/21, 0332/22).

ILLUSTRIOUS — With IMOGEN, GRIFFIN and ST. LAURENT left Devonport pm for Bermuda.

Operations

Home Fleet (to intercept SCHARNHORST)

Raise steam at 1 hour's notice (C. in C., H.F. to RODNEY, VALIANT, RENOWN, REPULSE, NEWCASTLE, SUSSEX, 0301/21).

Cruisers at Rosyth to act under orders of C. in C., H.F. (A.C.N.S.(H) 0315/21).

WILK — Proceed with despatch to 57:30 N. 6:0 E. 3000. (V.A.S. to submarines on Patrol, 0321/21).

SEVERN — Proceed with despatch to patrol off Utsire (V.A.S. to submarines on Patrol 0323/21).

3 Blenheims to search — CLYDE's 2234/20 (position of battle-cruiser & battleship). 3 Blenheim aircraft should reach Trondheim about 0730/21 and will then search towards position 64:43 N., 09:53 E. Sunderland leaving Sullom Voe as soon as possible to search to N.W. of this position. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0330/21).

SUNFISH — Proceed with despatch by route 2 to 54:15 N., 6:50 E. (R.A.S. to submarines on Patrol 0338/21)

18th C.S. — Proceed with your force in direction of 62:10 N. 04:15 E. NEWCASTLE and SUSSEX will R.V. with you in position 58:50 N., 00:20 E. Report time at which you will reach this position. (C. in C., H.F. 0343/21 to F.O.C. 18th C.S.). Reply, 1500 (C.S. 18, 0555/21).

WALPOLE
GALLANT — As WALPOLE is only capable of 27 knots at full speed am leaving her at Rosyth. GALLANT accompanying me. (C.S.18 to C. in C., H.F. 0545/21).

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Home Fleet (to intercept SCHARNHORST)

Aircraft attack — Aircraft reports am engaging enemy ship in position 63:42 N., 9:30 E. at 0800. (Aircraft 254 Sqdn., 0800/21). Submarines on Patrol advised (D.C. 0920/21). Cancel my 0920/21. Enemy reported were aircraft and not warships (D.C. 1048/21).

18th C.S. — Rosyth departures 0630/21. C.S.18 in MANCHESTER, SHEFFIELD, BIRMINGHAM, YORK, GALLANT in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 0343/21. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0939/21).

Battlecruisers — NEWCASTLE and SUSSEX sailed at 0930 to R.V. with you in 58:50 N., 00:20 E. at 1500. Battle-cruiser Sqdn., screened by INGLEFIELD, FORESTER, ESCORT, ZULU and DIANA will leave harbour at 1130 and proceed towards same R.V., speed of advance six knots. If no further information is received, battle-cruisers are to alter course to 030° on reaching R.V. (C. in C., H.F. 1029/21 to C.S.18, B.C.1).

A/S Protection — RODNEY's Walrus is to proceed to give A/S protection to NEWCASTLE and SUSSEX to maximum practical distance. (C. in C., H.F. 1049/21) NEWCASTLE and SUSSEX left Scapa 0957. (F.O.C. O.S. 1105/21).

Route of cruisers — Own cruisers and destroyers pass through 58:50 N., 00:20 E. at 1500 today and proceed thence to 62:10 N., 4:15 E. (V.A.S. to submarines on Patrol 1106/21).

SCHARNHORST sighted — 1 battle-cruiser, 5 destroyers bearing 220° distance 6 miles course 240° position 61:00 N., 4:14 E. (Aircraft 233 Sqdn., 1115/2, corrected 1120/21). Enemy capital ship SCHARNHORST class, 6 destroyers, position 61:00 N., 4:14 E. course 190° speed 25 knots. (Aircraft 233 Sqdn., 1120/21, Donibristle 1120/21 Advising submarines (C. in C., Rosyth 1144/21) Position of 6 enemy merchant vessels 53:00 N., 4:50 E. (Aircraft 206 Sqdn. 1145/21). Estimated enemy capital ship will pass 18 miles off coast between Jaederens and Lister this afternoon, speed of advance 23 knots. (V.A.S. to SALMON 1156/21). Aircraft and Sunderland escorted by 3 Blenheims ordered to shadow. 4 Hudsons also sent to attack. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1156/21).

War Diary

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Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Home Fleet (to intercept SCHARNHORST)

Battlecruisers left. Scapa departure 1215, RENOWN, REPULSE, INGLEFIELD, DIANA, ZULU, FORESTER and ESCORT (F.O.C.O.S. 1220/21).

My position course and speed are 57:59 N., 01:08 W., 090° 30 knots. (C.S.18 1230/21).

18th C.S. in charge. You are in charge of this operation against enemy battle-cruiser.

Swordfish leaving 6 Swordfish with torpedoes leave Hatston shortly (C. in C., H.F. to F.O.C. 18th C.S. 1237/21).

Fighter protection Request fighter protection. (F.O.C. 18 C.S., 1240/21). Orders for it (Donibristle, 1345/21). My 1156/21. Add 5 more Hudsons and 9 Beauforts also being sent. (C. in C., Rosyth 1242/21)
Expect air A/S escort about 1315. (C. in C., Rosyth 1244/21).
2 Blenheims leaving Sumburgh as soon as possible to make reconnaissance of Trondheim and 2 others to Bergen. Latter not to reach Bergen before 1500. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1258/21).

6 Swordfish left 6 Swordfish carrying torpedoes left Hatston 1245/21. Objective enemy battle cruiser and destroyers reported in aircraft 1120/21.
Track to 59:17 N., 4:50 E. then search northwards for 40 miles, returning to Sumburgh (A.C.O.S., 1300/21).

Intelligence for SALMON Estimate enemy capital ship will pass 18 miles off coast between Jaederens and Lister this afternoon, speed of advance 23 knots. (R.A.S., to SALMON 1309/21).

Aircraft confirms on landing enemy definitely battle-cruiser escorted by 6 destroyers. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1436/21).

Re Aircraft 6 aircraft identity unknown, my position 58:49 N. 00:20 W. (Aircraft attached to RODNEY 1450/21).
These were friendly (Scapa, 1540/21).
Re fighter protection being sent. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1458/21 to F.O.C.B.C.S.).
My 1408 (? 1458) Blenheims unable to take off owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth 1656/21).

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Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Home Fleet (to intercept SCHARNHORST)

Enemy's position — Position course and speed of 1 battleship and 7 destroyers is 60:05 N., 03:59 E., 180°, 20 knots. (Aircraft 204 Sqdn., 1450/21).
Submarines on Patrol advised (C. in C., Rosyth 1530/21).
D.F. at 1423/21. Position of unknown enemy unit, 60:05 N., 5:0 E., reliable fix, probably not capital ship. (D.D.I.C. 1510/21).

Movements of own forces — Further movements of own forces referred to in my 1106 are as follows at 1230.
MANCHESTER, SHEFFIELD, BIRMINGHAM, YORK and GALLANT were in 57:59 N., 01:08W., steering 090° at 30 knots. (V.A.S. to submarines on Patrol 1519/21). Own battlecruisers and destroyers left Scapa 11.30 steering eastward (V.A.S. to submarines on Patrol 1538/21).

Enemy altered course — Aircraft reports indicate enemy apparently altered course to 260° at 1510 and back to 184° at 1540 (C. in C., Rosyth 1610/21).
No enemy sighted between bearings 160° and 211° up to a distance of 100 miles. My position 59:30 N., 04:00 E., average visibility 40 miles. (Aircraft 224 Sqdn., 1615/21).
Position course and speed of enemy battle fleet 60:15 N., 04:20 E. 190° 22 knots. (C. in C., Rosyth to submarines on Patrol 1625/21)
(Aircraft 224 Sqdn. 1625/21).

Enemy's position — Position course and speed of 1 B.S. and 7 destroyers 59:46 N., 04:18 E., 140° 20 knots.
(C. in C., Rosyth to submarines, 1630/21)
(Aircraft
My 1625. Position of enemy is 59:50 N., 4:10 E.
(C. in C., Rosyth, to submarines 1643/21)
(Aircraft 224 Sqdn. 1643/21, Donibristle 1643/21).
My 1450 and 1625 (?) amended by my 1643.
Position given in my 1450 considered more reliable. (C. in C., Rosyth 1654/21 to submarines and all ships).

Aircraft attack — Following received for 18 Group for XX 0/269.
Position, course and speed of enemy battle flet 59:26 N., 4:00 E., 180°, 20. Have attacked. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1655/21, Aircraft 269 Sqdn. 1655/21).

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Home Fleet (to intercept SCHARNHORST)

NEWCASTLE shadowed by one enemy aircraft 58:47 N. 02:58 E. (NEWCASTLE 1727/21).

F.O.C.B.C.S. position — Aircraft reports F.O.C.B.C.S. in position 58:16 N., 00:40 E. at 1700 steering 110° 27 knots altering course to 090° at 1800. (C. in C. Rosyth 1746/21).

Enemy Aircraft shadowing — Am being shadowed by 1 enemy aircraft my position 58:01 N., 3:55 E. (MANCHESTER, 1817/21).

Air Protection — Request you will send every possible long range fighter to protect c uisers and battle cruisers. (C. in C., H.F. 1814/21 to C. in C., Rosyth).

1 vessel unknown bearing 200 3 VM bearing 045 in position. (Aircraft from MANCHESTER, 1850/21).

Enemy's Position — 1 battleship and 7 destroyers in 59:25 N., 5:15 E. (Aircraft 204 Sqdn., 1850/21).

18 C.S. — My position, course and speed are at 1900, 58:02 N., 04:34 E., 28 knots. (C.S.18, 1908/21).

Cruiser sighted — 1 cruiser bearing 210° distance 8 miles course 180° in position 065 West LK 60 (Aircraft from MANCHESTER, 1910/21).

2 Cruisers 5 Destroyers sighted — Course and speed of 2 cruisers and 5 destroyers i 090°, 20 knots (?). Enemy aircraft of type indicated 12. (Aircraft 204 Sqdn., 1915/21) (C. in C., Rosyth to submarines, 1915/21).

Aircraft Attack — Form Blue, attack on SCHARNHORST and 7 destroyers in position 59:50 N., 4:00 E., started from 5,000 ft. down to about 2,000 ft. 2 500 S.A.P. bombs ~~fmxxxxxxx~~ from each A/C. Dropped in sea about 15 yards to port side of SCHARNHORST. Very heavy A/A and pom-pom fire, and 6 M.E. 109's (Donibristle 1948/21). Position of enemy is 59:29 N., 03:36 E. (Donibristle 1950/21)

"F" 224 in formation with D/224 and A and Q/233 S from Leuchars at 1247 to intercept and attack B/S SCHARNHORST and six dr. Owing to formation leader not making contact with enemy forces,

A/C.....

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Home Fleet (to intercept SCHARNHORST)

A/c Attack (Contd.)

A/c "F" broke formation when course for home was set. Battleship was immediately found in position 5010 CO 190, speed 22 knots. Avoiding action taken at first owing to presence of 4 M.E. 109's. Bombing attackmade at 1600 hours at 11,000 feet with 3-250 sap bombs. Owing to cloud patches beneath aircraft and A/A barrage results were not observed, and after attempting to ascertain damage, which was impossible owing to enemy air action, A/C "F" S/C for Sumburgh at 1620 and landed at 1745. (Donibristle, 1815/21).

Further Attack

A.C.O.S. 1300/21. Six aircraft attacked one SCHARNHORST at 1510 in position 007 deg. 59° N., 4° E., 45 miles, No hits obtained on SCHARNHORST, but possibly one hit on a destroyer. Two aircraft shot down, remainder returned Hatston. Enemy screened by 7 destroyers one 2 miles ahead, one 2 miles astern, one 5 miles to westward, one at 1,000 yards on bearings red and green 030 and 150. Destroyer challenged with rocket. All ships opened weak barrage at about 3,000 yards. Short range fire effective and long range fire during withdrawal accurate. Avoiding action taken by turn away together under full helm. One Swordfish sighted 4 single engine fighters, probably M.E., 109, at 13,000 feet after attack. One enemy a/c also seen on close A/S patrol. (Hatston, 2016/21).

One bomb hit near No. 1 turret, flames seen by pilot later. One bomb hit port side forward by No. 1 gun turret resulting in flames and smoke which persisted until ship was out of sight. (Donibristle 2035/21). Another observer says one bomb dropped alongside and one hit. stern of ship, throwing up much debris. (Donibristle 2005/21).

A/cs (Wick) sighted SCHARNHORST and 7 destroyers with a fighter escort of 5 M.E. 109's in position 59:50 N., 4:00 E., at 1620. Attack delivered at 1625 by shallow dive bombing from port quarter to starboard bow on the B.C. in eschalon to port. Dropping 2 500 lb. S.A.P. bombs per a/c bombs from a/c D landed in the sea about 15 yards to the port side amidships. A/c D.42 turned away to starboard, and was then attacked by 3 fighters, resulting in one M.E. 109 being brought down in flames by the rear gunner. The engine of another was damaged by the pilot. The damaged a/c turned away to port and a/c D.42 set course for base independently....

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Home Fleet (to intercept SCHARNHORST)

A/c attacks (contd.)

independently. A/c A and C/42 were not seen after they attempted to close formation when attacked by fighters. A/c D returned with starboard aileron control shot away. A/A fire very heavy, and of all descriptions, including pom-poms. (Donibristle, 1940/21).

Cancel message 1940/21 (attack on SCHARNHORST) (C.D.B., to Adty. 2146/21).

Report of Blenheims from Sullom Voe, shadowing enemy force, and in action with DO.18 at 1400. One M.E. 109 shot down in flames crashed in sea at 1640, action finished 1643 hours. Sighted 5 Swordfish, LKDN 3240. Swordfish attacking SCHARNHORST, one believed crashed in sea on fire, 1510-1520 hours. (Donibristle, 2009/21).

C.S. 18's plans

My position course and speed are 58.43 N., 04.22 E., 173 deg., 22 knots. Report that enemy has entered Haugesund appears correct. In view of probability of heavy air attack intend if nothing is sighted to return to base, passing through 58:00 N., 04:36 E., at 2359, speed 22 knots, steering 270 deg. F.O.C.B.C.S. is requested to keep his force about 15 miles to westward of me. NEWCASTLE and SUSSEX return to Scapa at 2359. (C.S.18, 2100/21).

Destruction Important

The destruction of SCHARNHORST at present time is of such great importance that it is justifiable to take more than ordinary risks with any of your forces to achieve it. (1st S.L. 2105/21, to C.S.18).

Situation

Your 2105. Am being shadowed continuously by several aircraft. Visibility is extreme and ther will be no dark period. Surprise is therefore impossible and I consider air or submarine attack offer the only chance of achieving object. It seems very improbable German battleship SCHARNHORST will emerge and afford target for submarines whilst we remain cutside. Intend proceeding in accordance with my 2100 request maximum possible air attack against German battleship SCHARNHORST. (F.O.C. 18 C.S. 2203/21).

War Diary

21.6.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Home Fleet (to intercept SCHARNHORST)

Enemy Position	Aircraft report 2 cruisers, 5 destroyers 59:29 N., 3:36 E. course 90°, 20 miles at at 1915 (C. in C. Rosyth to submarines and all ships 2016/21).
Enemy A/c shadowing	1 A/c shadowing in position 58:39 N., 4:26 E. (C.S.18 2030/21). 2 a/c shadowing 58:56 N., 3.14 E. (NEWCASTLE 2045/21)
C.S.18 position	My position course and speed at 2100, 59:01 N., 3.23 E., 045°, 30 knots. SUSSEX in company. (C.S. 18 2107/21).
Enemy Air Attack	Enemy bombing, position 58:13 N., 4:28 E. (C.S.18 2210/21).
Enemy's Position	Pilot of F/204 who reported battle cruiser in 59:25 N., 5:15 E. at 1856 now reports her at (59:25 N., 4:16 E.) steering to southward. Same pilot reported 2 cruisers and 5 destroyers about 20 miles to westward of battle cruiser at 1915 and considers they were enemy and probably KOLN class.
Battle-cruiser hit.	Beauforts claim 2 hits with 500 lb bombs on battle cruiser. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2200/21).
Final report of enemy	Final report from F/204. One B.C. and 7 destroyers 59:25 N., 4:15 E. course 190°, 20 knots at 1842, 2 cruisers 5 destroyers 59:29 N., 3:36 E., course 010°, 20 knots at 1930. (C. in C., Rosyth 2250/21).
TRIBUNE) TRUANT)	To proceed with despatch to vicinity of 59:12 N., 4:55 E. and 59:25 N., 4:25 E. respectively (R.A.S., 2301/21). My 2301. Proceed along meridian 04° E. Bombing restriction arranged. 20 miles either side of this line between 59° N. and 63° N. (R.A.S. 2356/21). 1 Hudson leaving Thornaby shortly to make reconnaissance from Kristiansand to Lister, keeping 10 miles off coast. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2315/21).

War Diary

21.6.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Home Fleet (to intercept SCHARNHORST)

Cruisers to Sweep — Ships are to spread in sequence from left to right 5 miles apart - YORK, SHEFFIELD, BIRMINGHAM MANCHESTER, involved on course 360° speed 22 knots. Intend to alter course to 270° at 0330 and to 180° at 0500. My reference to position at 2300 is 58:12 N., 04:42 E. (C.S.18, 2355/21).

Situation — My appreciation of the situation based on the same information as you have but without knowing what water you have covered is that enemy battle cruiser has passed between your forces and the coast. (C. in C., H.F. to C.S.18, 2325/21).

A P P E N D I X 'A'

State of Dutch, Belgian and North East French Ports on 20th June, 1940.

Delfzyl.	Open for coasters.
Den Helder.	Open. Already used by M.T.Bs. Limited to fairly small ships.
Texel Zeegat.	Excellent anchorage for big ships.
Ymuiden-Amsterdam.	Canal to Amsterdam closed. Ymuiden outer part of harbour available to big ships
Hook-Rotterdam.	Open, damaged, but certainly usable. About 20 Dutch ships probably available.
Antwerp.	Intact. Very few ships. Navigation of river very difficult under present conditions.
Flushing.	Heavily damaged and of doubtful value.
Terneuzen-Ghent Canal.	Presumed damaged, but probably usable.
Zeebrugge.	Canal blocked. Some cranes on mole destroyed, but ships can go alongside Mole.
Ostende.	Open.
Dunkirk.	Blocked.
Calais.	Usable except possibly for inner basins.
Boulogne.	Inner basins probably blocked, but outer basins (channel steamer berths) usable.

War Diary

21.6.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations- France

St Malo

Following from SABRE, Captain of Port, St. Malo, Report as follows, "No Polish troops in town and no news of their approach German advance guard has visited town and left again on finding it disarmed and garrison withdrawn. German occupation expected this evening or tomorrow but no civilian wishes to be evacuated" Propose utlising schools to evacuate Jersey. T.O.O. 1815/20 (C. in C., Portsmouth 0837/21)

La Pallice

My 1752/20. Admiral Hallett is sailing in VANQUISHER at 1000 today for La Pallice to assist in carrying out this duty. (A.C.W.A. 1014/21)

Polish

About 6000 Polish troops assembling Le Verdon. No shipsarrived there yet. Request immediate action. (B.N.L.O. Bordeaux to A.C.W.A. 1206/21) Franco-Polish Liaison officer reports 8,000 Polish troops now here, more arriving (BERKELEY, 1820/21)

CALCUTTA

Request you will sail CALCUTTA as soon as ready to join C.S. 2. who is at present at Arcachon but will be moving to Bayonne. (A.C.W.A. 1314/21 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Withdrawal of final party of naval officers, ratings and Army stragglers from S. Malo was made possible by a considerable effort by volunteers of St. Helier Yacht Club. Suggest worthy of official notice. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1331/21)

Channel Ports

Air reconnaissance yestefday 20th showed Cherbourg, Havre, Boulogne, Calais, Dunkirk Nieuport, Ostend, Zeebrugge, Flushing, Ymuiden clear of shipping. (D.D.I.C. 0746/21)

Evacuations

My 2246/20. Party for embarkation now greatly increased . Sail a second destroye for Port Vendres. (D.O.D., (F) to F.O.C.N.A. 0106/21) Refers to passage of H.M. Ambassador and party to North Africa.

Pass.....

War Diary

21.6.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-France

Evacuations. Contd.

Pass to B.N.L.O. Bordeaux. Imperative that ships loading at Le Verdon should have fighter protection. Do your utmost to arrange this with French Authorities. (F.O. 2. C.S. 0510/21 to Admty. BEAGLE)

Following from B.N. L.O. Bordeaux timed 2000/20. "Situation changed Ambassador remaining Bordeaux but may be forced to evacuate at very short notice. Requests GALATEA be held off Arachon for present.

Communication with Admty. dislocated by enemy's jamming. Am remaining at Arcachon for the present. (C.S.2., 0655/21)

Bayonne
La Pallice

Can ARETHUSA or a destroyer join me. If she arrives in time intend Ambassador and party to return in her. I would then proceed to Bayonne, where large proportion of those evacuated appear to be moving and direct wireless communication is most necessary. If not, intend BERKELEY bring home Ambassador and under present condition I would go to Le Verdon. This still leaves La Pallice out of touch unless VANQUISHER can do this in addition to duties in your 1014 (C.S. 2. to A.C.W.A. 1135/21)
Transports when loaded must leave at once. (Homeward route) (C.S. 2 1141/21)
Your 1135/21 ARETHUSA not available (CinC.,1642/21).

St. Jean de Luz.

My 1642, Capt. Albn in FRASER with beach and communication parties sails shortly for St. Jean de Luz which will be used in preference to Bayonne for evacuation. He will be under your orders. Use VANQUISHER and BEAGLE as you require. (C. in C., 1902/21)

Le Verdon

Your 0430 and 0731. Delay in contacting Captain of the Port who is not helpful. Troops are in wood behind Le Verdon. Still no transports. Essential for quick embarkation transports go alongside pier. At present Capt. of Port will not allow due to mines. He thinks LL trawlers have swept (100%) area but wishes second sweep. Offers small cargo vessel which should arrive at Arcachon 0700/22. Place no faith in this promise. Your 0941. Admiral of Marines Bordeaux has 2 suitable ships already there and can supply names to

War Diary

21.6.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-France

Le Verdon, Contd.	BEAGLE (BERKELEY to F.O.C. 2 C.S. 1515/21)
French Air Pilots	Up to 2,500 French air pilots whose evacuation is highly desirable should reach Bayonne by Sunday 23rd. M. Deloraine with up to 20 R.D.F. technicians is believed to be in Bordeaux or Bayonne and should be evacuated if located. (D.O.D. (H) 1541/21 to B.N.L.O. Bordeaux)
RESTIGOUCHE	To sail at 2100 and escort ARANDORA STAR to Bayonne. On arrival come under orders of C.S.2. (C. in C., W.A. 1804/21)
	Has ORMONDE or any other transport arrived (C.S.2. to BERKELEY, 2025/21)
Gironde Mined	12 magnetic mines are reported dropped between Le Verdon and Pauillac. Arrange for sweepers to cover this on morning flood tide, each should embark a river pilot, (R.A., in BEAGLE, 2121/21 to BERKELEY)
Bayonne	Your 2240/21 (sailing BEAGLE and BERKELEY for Bayonne.) Concur. (C. in C., W.A. to F.O.C.S. 2. 0219/22)
Polish Troops	ALDERPOOL with 4000 Polish troops, expected arrival 0130/23 (C. in C., W.A. to N.O.I.C, Liverpool, 1825/21)
La Pallice	Ascertain if any Polish or Belgian troops require to be embarked in vicinity of La Pallice. If so get them embarked as soon as possible in any ships available and escort to Plymouth in convoy with any other Allied ships you can take with you, keeping well clear French coast. Despatch in imperative. (C.S. 2. to VANQUISHER, 2155/21)
	7,000 Polish troops at Pointe De Grave. 4,000 routed Bayonne. So far, unable to contact Bordeaux. (BERKELEY, 1900/21)

War Diary

21.6.1940.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-France, Contd.

Bayonne

Sail ARANDORA STAR for Bayonne at 2100/21. will be under orders of escort. On arrival orders will be signalled by British warship in vicinity of coast. (C. in C., W.A., 1958/21, to D.S.T.O., Plymouth)

French Ships at Plymouth

Requests being received from French ships in the port for the supply of fuel and other stores. Instructions requested whether these are to be met without further reference. Water and victualling stores are being supplied on demand. (C. in C., W.A., 2223/21)

BATORY

Arrived St. Jean de Luz. (Bayonne 1030/21)

SOBIESKY

Left for U.K. with Polish troops (Bayonne, 1600/22)

LL Trawlers required in Gironde

Gironde is closed by magnetic mines. Imperative to release French and Neutral shipping carrying troops and important stores.

LL Trawlers originally sent to Gironde cannot be found. Request immediate replacement. (R.A. MEAGLE 2320/21 to C.S. 2. Admty)

Party of 7 officers 121 ratings BRITMAD leaving Algiers June 22nd for Casablanca 11 Swordfish and crew at Maison Blanford? aerdrome Algiers awaiting orders. Several hundred French aircraft here lately arrived from French and steady stream continuing. (B.N.L.O. Algiers, 1957/21, to Admty)

Channel Islands

Situation in Jersey. Although it is realise that Islands will not be held only about 8000 wish to be evacuated. These have been embarked and no more will go unless compelled. S.T.O. has been taken to St. Peter Port. In Guernsey about half population are willing to go and are being evacuated. Fishing boat bringing 25 French Naval Ratings 3 British women and 3 children from Brittany to St. Helier was intercepted. Passengers with all convenient despatch transferred to Schoote

War Diary

21.6.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-France.

Channel Islands, Contd.

DESPATCH. Am proceeding on patrol. R.F.C. transport expected time of arrival p.m. 22nd June (SABRE, 2046/21)

Swedish Destroyers

Swedish Admiralty are definitely anxious about their four destroyers which together with PATRICIA are now understood to be at Faroes. They believe that Brit. Gov. fears German navy may seize these ships en route to Sweden, but Swedish Admiralty assure me that German Admiralty this morning has again given undertaking not to interfere with these ships. Would be grateful of enlightenment as to what I am to inform Swedish Admiralty. (N.A., Stockholm, 1145/21

Owing to ~~entrance~~ extensive defects, Swedish destroyers are considerably delayed in being ready for sea. Have fuelled them from destroyer and had steaming party on each one, but earliest estimated time of departure was noon today, 21/6. Steaming on one boiler and in some cases on one engine. MAORI and MASHONA are re-embarking steaming party before proceeding with despatch to Scapa in accordance with C.in C., H.F's 0301/21. (Capt. D 6, 0458/21)

My 0459 Part 11. PATRICIA has now completed oiling from CASTOR, and wishes to proceed a.m. today. Intend allow ship proceed at noon and afterwards proceeding Scapa with 2 Swedish destroyers, leaving other 2 empty under guard until situation permits their being (Corrupt group)(Capt. D.6. 0459 21)

Faroes departure 1500. Swedish PATRICIA, CASTOR for Scapa 1630, TARTAR escorting 2-Swedish destroyers PUKE, REMUS, for Scapa (Capt., D.6. 1631/21)
PUKO has broken down in position 61.15'N 6. 6'W and is now in tow of KINGSTON CORNELIAN. Request tugs. TARTAR giving A/S protection and REMUS in company. (Capt. D.6., 2230/21)

War Diary

21.6.40
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

British air activity. (See also Operations - Home Fleet.)

Battery at C.Blanc Nez attacked.	Attack by 4 Skuas and 5 Rocs on new gun emplacement at Cape Blanc Nez. 50°54'40" N., 1°44'0" E. 4 direct hits on target and several near misses. (Chatham A/C H.Q.1656/21)
Stavanger.	No shipping observed in Stavanger other than very small craft. (Donibristle, 1055/21)
SS. MERCURIUS	Dutch, painted naval grey. Did not stop when fired at. Bombed. Near miss.1031/21.52°58' N., 3°8' E., 60 miles W.Helder) (I.C.0489/40)
M.V's Attacked.	6 M.V. reported in 53°00' N., 4°30' E., at 1145/21. 9 A/P 206 Sqdn. and 8 A/P 826 Sqdn., reported by Q/206, who attacked and estimates one hit. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1254/21) 1523/21) 4 M.V. in 59°00' N., 5°05' E., attacked with guns, bombs, miss 10 yards astern. (Donibristle, 1005/21)
New Carrier.	ILLUSTRIOUS, with IMOGEN, GRIFFIN and ST. LAURENT, left Devonport p.m. 21st for Bermuda. (V.C.N.S.)
Patrol Boats and M.V.	2 M.V.'s and 2 patrol boats in LKND 0005, between Karmo and Stavanger. Bombed one of the M.V., missed 10 yards astern. (Donibristle, 1310/21)
Raid on Willemscoord Coast/Vlieland	3 ships attacked and sunk or severely damaged 1520 by direct hits believed to be GELDERLAND (Gunnery Training Ship) HERTOG HENDRIK and a gunboat (I.C.0489/40) But Joint Intelligence Sub.Committee Report No.47 says the second ship was SOERABAJA (Coast Defence Ship). 6 barges, 1 tug attacked 1555. 3 hits on barges (I.C.0489/40)

War Diary

21.6.40
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Mines in Bristol Channel — My 1918/20. Casualty Report. Request Q.2. message to cover dangerous area due to mines enclosed by circle of radius 2 miles with centre 51°22' N., 3°35' W. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1222/21)

Portland — North Pole mine exploded at 0910/21 by L.L.trawler 130° 7 cables from Breakwater Fort. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1745/21)

East Coast Barrier. — TEVIOT BANK, PLOVER, ICARUS, INTREPID, ~~1SD~~ ESK and EXPRESS left the Humber at 1800/21 to continue minelaying in the East Coast Mine Barrier (V.C.N.S.)

Karm Sund Mined. — British mines have been laid in Karm Sund (chart 881) between latitude 59°22'48" N., and latitude 59°22'21" N., (1st S.L., 2122/21, to ships in area

Gironde mined. — The Gironde has been heavily mined by A/C's between Le Verdon and Pauillac (I.C.0489/40) See Operations, France.

Enemy Intelligence

Small craft being taken up. — German authorities in Norway are enquiring and purchasing small craft of all descriptions. Graded A.2, (B.C.Goteborg 1600/21).

Danish Vessels, Sound, Hamburg. — Following from dependable Royal Personage Denmark A.2

(a) No vessels of Danish Navy requisitioned by Germans. Small number of vessels kept for training Danish Navy remainder paid off.

(b) Regarding The Sound, several steamers have been sunk since April.

(c) Great Belt three Ferrys mined only one of which sank. Our mines exploded too late damaging after part only. Troop ferrys now preceded by pilot ferry (d) believed BLOHM and VOSS badly damaged by British Air Raids also borne out by arrival damaged German vessel from this works for repair Danish Yard. (N.A. Stockholm, 1508/21.)

Increase in W/T traffic — Marked increase since noon 20/6 in the frequency associated with traffic. Wilhelmshaven and Norwegian Coast. (D.C. 0435/21)

3 M/S
1 M/V — 2120/21 68°23' N., 16°25' E. (Vest Fiow) Course 250 (A/C report) (I.C.0489/40)

36 M.V's
2 E boats — In Bergen harbour and 1 M.V. 15 miles S. of Bergen (Donibristle 1815/21)

3 Cruisers
6 M.V's. — Were at anchor in Kiel Bay night 20/21 (D.C.N.S.293) 55°0' N., 4°50' E., (A/C 1145/21)

HOME COMMANDS (Ctd.)

Shipping

Though the shipping in the Downs has decreased, there are large numbers of ships passing in convoy almost every day through the restricted channels of the Thames Estuary. These must form a tempting and a comparatively easy target for hostile bombers based in Holland and Belgium.

It is desired to emphasise the need for fighter aircraft to be in instant readiness to take off and go to the assistance of these valuable ships should they be attacked, for it is clearly possible that without rapid and adequate air support our losses in such a raid might be very serious. (C. in C. Nore 2202/19 to Adty.)

Miscellaneous

Spanish Trawlers off Ireland. Trawlers ILFRACOMBE and SCARBOROUGH report 12 pairs of Spanish trawlers, mostly motor trawlers, are off Ireland between 52° and 53° N., 11°30' W. These trawlers were fishing near convoy route. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1135/21) N.A. Madrid, asked to report (D.N.I. 1744/21)

WEATHER

0500 B.S.T.	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	N.fresh south of 58° N., W, moderate N. of 58° N.	Good or moderate	Wind backing Weather deteriorating.
Channel and W.Approaches	N. or N.E. moderate	Good or moderate	Similar.
Horns Reef.	N. moderate	Good.	Similar
Dutch Coast.	N.N.E. moderate or fresh.	Good or moderate.	Similar
Coast of S.W. Norway.	N. or N.W. fresh or moderate.	Good or moderate.	Wind Backing. Weather deteriorating.

War Diary

21.6.40
Friday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

Home Commands

CORRIENTES.	My 1830/10/5 (damaged by explosion). Ship now fit for sea. (Las Palmas, 1915/21)
LUFFWORTH	British (279 tons) rendered useless and abandoned at Brest 21/6.
TIRRANNA	Norwegian due Mombassa 16/6 overdue (80 (1) Colombo 1719Z/21)

War Diary

21.6.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

B.N.L.O. Sud 1402/21. List of ships sent or could be sent to Port Vendres. (F.O.C.N.A. 1850/21 to Admty)

Your 1258/19. If emergency sailing from Gibraltar became necessary you should be guided by the following:-
(1) British ships and others including neutrals under Allied control should be classified in the two categories. (a) Ocean going ships and (b) Short sea traders.
(2) Category (a) to be dealt with as follows
(i) Ships bound for the East or for Eastern Mediterranean or Malta to be sailed via the Cape calling at Capetown for onward routeing and Freetown or St. Vincent if necessary for bunkers.
(ii) Ships in ballast or with coal cargoes for Western Mediterranean ports to be sailed for Sydney Cape Breton for orders bunkering at Azores if necessary.
(iii) Remander to be sailed to Milford Haven for orders.
(3) Category (b) Ships to be sailed to Milford Haven for Orders.
(4) All ships for U.K. to be sailed in convoy with normal convoy escort if available. If not endeavour will be made to meet convoy as early as possible with escort from U.K. Convoy should be routed far to the westward particularly in vicinity of Finisterre. You shoul select and report position date and time of rendezvous in Western Approaches and convoy route.
(5) Further signal will be made regarding neutral ships not under Allied control.
(A.C.N.S. (T) 0037/21 to F.O.C.N.A.)

E.F. For North Africa

Your 1910 and 1911/20. Your arguments and appreciations, but it is impossible at the moment to provide an expiditionary force for North Africa owing to loss of so much equipment in France and our great present commitments. (W.O. 2050/21 to Governor, Gib)

Repeating his views that E.F. urgently required in North Africa. (Governor Gib. 1231/21)

RAF Reinforcements

35 R.A.F. officers and 700 airmen arrived at Gibraltar from Marseilles.

War Diary

21.6.1940
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic, Contd.

CONTE ROSSO — Information in Admty. 1558/17 has been received by all ships concerned on North Atlantic Station including KEPPEL and VELLOX (F.O.C.N.A. 1150/21)

Evacuation — B.N.L.O. Sud's 1402/21, Material and personnel accumulating rapidly request ships. Comply as far as you are able.(DTD 2254/21 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic

MALOJA — To proceed Dakar and remain there until further orders (C. in C., S.A. 1617/21)

French Ships — S.O.I. Capetown 1250/18. Request information as to arrangements for fuel and provisions for French ships. VILLE DE TAMATIVE and LINOIS, each with 1,000 native troops on board, at present at Union ports and without credits. Destination Dakar, but this may be changed. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1621/21)

Attitude of French — Dakar will be held. Any necessary arrangements can be made here by those who understand the position. Running costs of whole army one million sterling for month. Dakar garrison one quarter that sum. Figure includes Air Force but not Navy. C. in C., requests you will order British Officers on coast not to receive French deserters on any account. (B.L.O. Dakar, 1800/21 to W.D.)

War Diary

21.6.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean- General

French here appear to be out of touch with North Africa and do not know attitude of Nogues. Indication of the determination of Army (in Middle East) to continue struggle would be appreciated (No 8 (Jones) Military Mission 1900/21) to(C. in C. M.E)

Evacuation of Troops

Czech Troops

D.S.T.O. Marseilles left 18/6 on receipt of order all British M.V's were to leave French ports.
Presume there was no British authority in Marseilles to receive and act on your 2011/19 (evacuation of Czech Troops) and your 0144/21 (embarkation of important personage (F.O.C.N.A. 1614/21 to Admty)

French War Material

Every endeavour to be made to evacuate French war material in S.W. France. Reply urgently if shipping required (Dimilint 2246/21 to M.A. Paris)

R.A.F. Personnel etc.

Ask D.S.T.O. Marseilles if there is any news of personnel, M.T. of H.A. guns of R.A.F. Force which were at Vallon 20 miles N. of Marseilles. (D.O.D(F) 2251/21 to F.O.C.N.A.

Refugees

Evacuation of Civilians

Considerable number of ships carrying evacuated personal both service and civilian arriving here from south of France. They cannot be retained here in present political situation. I intend sending such ships as have sufficient fuel, water and victuals on board direct to U.K. either independently or as extra convoy. May be necessary to use H.M.S. PATROCLUS for service personnel due to lack of suitable shipping. (F.O.C.N.A. 1250/21)

Approximately 2200 troops and R.A.F. and over 300 civilians including women and children have arrived at Gibraltar or are expected tomorrow from Marseilles. They are all in small cargo vessels with deck accomodation only. Vessels are overcrowded with no hot meals or washing facilities. I

War Diary

21.6.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean- Refugees

Evacuation of Civilians, Contd.

I have embarked 500 R.A.F. in H.M.S. PATROCLUS for passage to Liverpool. Request one or more transports may be sent forthwith. Agree. (F.O.C.N.A., 1858/21)

Following from Foreign Office "There are about one thousand British refugees at Marseilles and in the Riviera. Are there any British ships in Marseilles in which Foreign Office could arrange to have them embarked at their own risk. Do you know if the N.C.S.O. is still at Marseilles? (D.N.I. 2316/21 to C. in C., Med.)

Cannes

Your 2220/20 (civilians stranded at Cannes) In view of your 0144/21, have now no ship to send to Cannes. (F.O.I.C., Gibraltar, 0620/21) to Admty)

Situation quiet. Several ships now arriving with Marseilles Base sub area, Haddock force S.A.F. and other troops and civilians evacuated from Marseilles. All apparently arrived safely detailed report follows when known. (Governor, Gibraltar, 2045/21)

PALOMARES is being sailed to Liverpool with 28 evacuated families and Government stores. (F.O.C.N.A., 1032/21)

Recommend all Service families in Middle East be evacuated at first opportunity as convoys allow via Red Sea to South Africa (or onward to U.K.) Total involved including Navy and R.A.F. approximately 2000 women 4000 children. Request immediate authority to make arrangements in conjunction with C. in C., East Indies regarding convoys. Will you take up question of South Africa. Pass to Admiralty and A.M. (C. in C., M.E. 1530/21 to W.O.)

War Diary

21.6.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Operations

Submarines

Submarines have had to be moved from Malta on account of air raids. Propose to operate same from Haifa, so as to avoid having to have at Alexandria 1st S.F. as well as those coming from China. No facilities at Haifa. Second depot ship urgently required. Could LUCIA be spared from Aden? (C. in C., Med. 2215/21)

Air

Floating Dock Damaged

4 raids midnight to 0300. 34 casualties reported. Widespread bombing. No material damage. Floating dock collapsed possibly due to near miss between it and armament depot in Saturdays raids. (V.A. Malta 2123/21)

Situation report. Five air raids since midnight. Bombs fell Marfa and Gozo remainder in sea. No military damage or casualties. Floating dock has sunk and is out of action. (Governor, Malta, 1229/21)

Bombardment of Tobruk

At dawn 21/6 Blenheims bombed warships at Tobruk, in cooperation with naval bombardment (? of Bardia) Heavy smoke from one large ship resulted. Naval spotter aircraft gave fighter protection during the naval bombardment by day. (Air Min. D.S. 339)

ALEXANDRIA

Greek (4355 tons) Attacked by Italian aircraft but not hit.

Mining

Italian Defensive minefields

Summary of reports of Italian defensive minefields. Reports are of varying reliability. None confirmed except paragraph 6.
1. Mines laid off Durazzo Taranto Spezzia Otrante channel Maddalena Bari Barletta Monopoli Zara Naples Brindisi Benghazi Tripoli (Africa)
2. Mines laid between Elba and Sardinia.
3. Mines laid between Kos Kalimno and Leros. In bays round Milo.
Part 2 follows (C. in C., Med. 1554/17 to Med. Fleet)

War Diary

21.6.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Shipping

Your 0210/21 French merchant ships with French escort may sail for Beirut as requested by Admiral Beirut. British ss. LESBIAN should join convoy. This is considered highly desirable as a matter of policy to meet French wishes. C. in C., Med. Concurs (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1046/21 to N.O.I.C. Haifa)

French Danube Lighters transferred to British Flag

Transfer to British flag of 45 French Danube lighters and tugs and trawler PHEONIX all in Istanbul completed today. (Welpon 1833/21)

East Indies

ELON

French naval Auxiliary tanker bound for Abadan is being routed to Bombay (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0742/21)

Air Operations

MACAACA aerodrome bombed; no results observed. A/S patrol, nothing seen (A.H.Q. Aden 1752/21)

HQ R.A.F. M.E. Operational Summary No 10 Second enemy submarine reported one mile off Dharba with another ship or submarine bombed by 211 Squadron aircraft A.A. 26 June (?) without result. No further reports received regarding it. 113 and 216 Squadrons bombed El Adem and El Gubbi aerdromes destroying by fire six E.A. on ground at El Adem. Others propably damaged. Following shipping reported in Tobruk 3 cruisers 3 destroyers 2 submarines 3 large transports 29 large ships 7 smaller ships. SAN GIOCION still aground. MERSA MATRUH heavily bombed several times night 19/20. No casualties one hut demolished. Recc. Bardia reported one Flotilla leader in harbour. Air photos show boom defences entrance Tobruk harbour. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 2032/20)

Madagascar

Following passed to Admiralty for information addressed Antananarive. Your 1704/19 C. in C., East Indies wished you to thank Governor General for the information that Seaplane bases are ready and flying boats are available he will gladly make use of these facilities. Assure him that British Navy will do everything possible to protect Madagascar should it be threathened. (S.O.I.Colombo, 10392/21)

War Diary

21.6.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies, Contd.

For S of S. for For. Aff. My Tel.20/6 All classes of population of Madagascar earnestly beg Great Britain to take immediate steps to forstall any enemy occupation or control of Island in the event of French Government being forced to cease hostilities. Madagascar is determined to carry on the struggle at all costs but immediate action on the part of Great Britain indispensable in order to oppose Fait Accompli to any enemy action. In view of Strategic Geographical importance of Madagascar the foregoing has my personal full approval and support. (B.C. Tananarive 2120/21)

China

South China Visit

re-Visit to South China(your 1506Z/17 and my 1942/17) If you prefer not to go, it is for your consideration to propose to R.A., Malaya that he should accompany G.O.C., Malaya, should the latter decide to undertake the visit. (D.O.D. (F), to C. in C., China, 1835/21)

C. in C., Singapore

In view of present rather dangerous situation in Far East unless it is considered inadvisable I intend to proceed to Singapore in KANIMBLA leaving Hong Kong 25/6 or 26/6 or at once if situation deteriorates.
I may call in at Kamranh en route to discuss matter with French Admiral. DAUNTLESS is remaining at Saigon till situation is clearer as her presence will have a steadying effect.
KANIMBLA reduce seagoing Squadron based Hong Kong to 2 A.M.C'd and these would be sent South immediately if and when situation alters for worse. I have abandoned patrol off coast of Japan pro tem. I have every indication French Admiral will remain my ally whatever happens in Europe. (C. in C., China, 1155z/21)

French Shipping

Admiralty message B.S. In view of Consul General Saigon's 0105 21st June to Foreign Office Governor of Hong Kong is suggesting to Foreign Office that French merchant ships should now be allowed to resume normal trade in Far East. I agree. (C. in C. China, 04252/21)

War Diary

21.6.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Visit to Rio

As U.S. cruiser QUINCY has now arrived Monte Video I intend to leave Plate area and visit Rio de Janeiro 27/6 so as to discuss local situation with Ambassador. (R.AS.A.D., 1601Z/21)

EMILE BERTIN

Telephone message of Prime Minister has been conveyed to O.C., French cruiser EMILE BERTIN. He assures me ship will remain in Halifax at least two days to await decision of Canadian and French Govts. Also states he interpreted signal directing French training cruiser JEANNE D'ARC and French aircraft carrier BEARN to Africa. (C.O.A.C., Halifax, 1559/20, recd. 0132/21)

JEANNE D'ARC
BEARN

My 1559/20. As French Cruiser EMILE BERTIN has received further instructions to sail for Martinique, he intends leaving Halifax 1200 today Friday. (C.O.A.C., Halifax, 1112/21)

My 1112/21. Sailing has been postponed until 1800 to-day Friday. (C. O.A.C, Halifax, 1233/21)

French Attitude

Your 1056/21 Admiral Martinique has assured me of his intention to continue war in full co-operation with British Forces. Suggest French Cruiser EMILE BERTIN be allowed to proceed to Martinique without hindrance.
X ? 1055/21 intended. (C. in C., A & WI. 1402/21 to C.N.S. Ottawa)

War Diaries

1 June 1940
thru
30 June 1940

continued on
Reel K 6A

ENDING OF

REEL K5A

DOCUMENTS - PHOTOGRAPHED

Trigen Coffee 22.11.1940 - 31.10.1940	cont from Reel K 4/A
1.6.1940 - 30.6.1940	cont on Reel K 6A

ONI

DATE: 4/15/46

MACH. NO. 1701

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